

DRAFT CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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CHARTE 4326/00

CONTRIB 192

COVER NOTE

Subject : Draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Please find hereafter a contribution of the "Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V" (AGDF) with a letter to the Convention regarding the participation in a war on the basis of a decision of conscience.¹

¹ This text exists in English language only.

Convention Secretariat
Council Legal Service
175 rue de la Loi
1048 Brüssel
BELGIEN

Bonn, 5.5.2000
uf/rh

Charter of basic rights of the European Union

Dear Madam/Sir,

We have been informed about the ongoing work on the charter of the basic rights of the European Union. By this letter we would like to ask you to incorporate the right to object to participate in a war on the basis of a decision of conscience.

These are the main reasons which we would like to be considered thoroughly:

1. Conscientious objectors symbolize the existence of people - men and women, young and old, working for peace by non-violent means. Such an attitude, based on a decision of consciousness represents a main condition for modern societies to organize their democratic life and to organize the relations to other states and people.
2. Conscientious objectors in the past have contributed considerably, in particular by their voluntary services, to foster the common good by their very strong personal convictions.
3. The right to refuse to kill in a war has been accepted in a series of European countries in basic laws and in laws and has had a good influence in these countries. We would especially quote the German example where the position of COs has been strengthened by the constitution.

Sincerely yours,

(Ulrich Frey)
Director
