DRAFT CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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CHARTE 4258/00

CONTRIB 131

COVER NOTE
Subject: Draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Please find hereafter two contributions by the Union of European Federalists (UEF) on occasion of the hearing on 27 April 2000. ¹

¹ This text has been submitted in French, English and German languages.
Charter of Basic Rights

Resolution of the UEF Federal Committee on the Charter of Basic Rights and the Intergovernmental Conference (Extract)
Brussels, 20 – 21 November 1999

The Union of European Federalists,

(...) 

• recalls the decision of the Cologne European Council in June 1999 that “the fundamental rights applicable at Union level should be consolidated in a Charter and thereby made more evident”;

• insists that this proposed Charter, which is important in itself, must not be a substitute for a European Union Constitution;

• welcomes the introduction of a new working method involving representatives of the European Parliament, national parliaments, citizen's organisations and the Member States' governments in the preparation of the Charter, thereby establishing a new procedure which provides the method by which the European Union Constitution should be drawn up.

The Union of European Federalists,

therefore calls on the European Council meeting in Helsinki to decide on joint action with the European Parliament and the Member States' Parliaments to adopt the same procedure as agreed by the European Council of Cologne for the Charter of Basic Rights to draw up a Constitution of the European Union which should include citizen's rights and obligations.

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Resolution on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights as an important step towards a European Constitution

The UEF Federal Committee meeting in Brussels on 1 and 2 April 2000,

1. Welcomes the initiative for the drafting of an EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and reminds
   • that the European Union is a union of shared values
   • that a consolidation of these crucial basic and human rights constitutes an important point
     of reference for European citizens
   • that the fundamental rights of the European Union include not only human but also social
     and cultural rights as well as rights devolving from the implications of the IT society;

2. Underlines the democratic principle that all political power originates from the political will of
   the citizens. This principle has to be integrated in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The
   coming into office of the future European Government has to reflect the result of European
   elections;

3. Calls for
   • the incorporation of the EU Fundamental Rights into the EU and EC treaties, thus granting
     them fully binding legal status
   • the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights throughout the Union and any
     infringements to be dealt with by the European Court of Justice;

4. Calls for the members of the EU Fundamental Rights Convention to initiate a broad public
   debate involving the parliaments and assemblies at different levels as well as organisations of
   the civil society;

5. Considers
   • that the elaboration of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is an important step towards a
     European Constitution
   • that other elements will have to follow such as the provisions on the decision-making process
     of the European Union and the distribution of competences between the EU, the Member
     states, and the subnational levels of governments;

Welcomes the introduction of a new method by which members of the European Parliament,
members of national parliaments and representatives of the national governments - involving
the organisations of the civil society - are working together for the drafting of the Charter.
After the successful completion of the deliberations on the EU Charter of Fundamental
Rights, the Convention should commence to work on further elements of a European
Constitution.

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New .eu Domain

Changed Web and E-Mail Addresses

The introduction of the .eu domain also required the web and e-mail addresses of the European institutions to be adapted. Below please find a list of addresses found in the document at hand which have been changed after the document was created. The list shows the old and new address, a reference to the page where the address was found and the type of address: http: and https: for web addresses, mailto: for e-mail addresses etc.

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