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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Maurizio Turco, Marco Pannella, Marco Cappato, Michael Cashman, Chris Davies, Manuel António dos Santos, Geneviève Fraisse, Heidi Anneli Hautala, Christopher Huhne, Anna Karamanou, Lousewies van der Laan, Lucio Manisco, Helmuth Markov, Elena Ornella Paciotti, Giovanni Pittella, Elly Plooij-van Gorsel, Patsy Sørensen and Gianni Vattimo

on interference by the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) in the work of the European Convention

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on interference by the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) in the work of the European Convention

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas, in a document submitted to the Praesidium and members of the European Convention on 24 May 2002, the Secretariat of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community called for the future constitutional Treaty of the EU to include a reference to God as a guarantee 'for the freedom of the human person' and recognition of the limitations on public authority,
- B. whereas the separation of Church and State is a fundamental principle which has led to the recognition of fundamental rights and freedoms and the sole limit on the powers and functions of the public authorities resides in respect for democratic legality,
 - 1. Affirms that the principle of secularism implies the complete independence of public institutions and their sphere of responsibilities from clerical or denominational influence or organisations;
 - 2. Condemns the statements made by the Secretariat of COMECE as an attempt to subvert the principle of the impartiality of the European legal order and to replace its democratic legitimacy with a theocratic legitimacy;
 - 3. Considers it essential that the future constitutional order of the European Union should formally establish the principle of the secularism of the institutions.