

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

21 March 2001

3/2001

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Andrew Duff, Alain Lamassoure, Jo Leinen and
Mihail Papayannakis

for entry in the register

on a Constitution for Europe

Expiry date: 21 June 2001

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PE 303.136
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Declaration on a Constitution for Europe

The European Parliament,,

- A. whereas the Nice Treaty represents a retrograde step for the European institutions,
 - B. whereas that Treaty runs the risk of turning Europe into a kind of permanent diplomatic forum, i.e. the opposite of what the builders of Europe have been aiming to achieve over the past fifty years,
 - C. whereas the governments have had to accept the opening of a great public debate on the objectives of the Union; whereas this debate is only of any interest if it enables a new founding movement to begin, whereby Europe will become a federation of peoples and States,
- 1. Declares that such a Europe needs a real Constitution guaranteeing democratic processes and providing the Union with elected leaders;
 - 2. Takes the view that the constitutional approach calls for a different method: that of the Convention;
 - 3. Believes that the Constitution of Europe must be drawn up not only by governments but also by representatives of the nations concerned, whether they are present members or official candidates for membership, without those that have reservations being able to prevent the others from forming a union;
 - 4. Is convinced that if the constitutional work begins in 2001 it will be possible to finish it in time for the accession of the first applicant countries, thus enabling each of the European nations and States to choose for itself the place and role in Europe that suits it best;
 - 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Member States and applicant countries.