

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

1 September 2003

16/2003

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Othmar Karas

on the holding of a Europe-wide referendum on the EU Constitution
(Constitutional Treaty)

Expiry date: 1 December 2003

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PE 335.426

Or. DE

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The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. having regard to the adoption by the European Council in Porto Carras of the draft text for a European Convention, which will form a good basis for the work of the Inter-Governmental Conference,
 - B. whereas it is necessary for the citizens of Europe to be convinced of the importance of this work and of the European Union itself,
 - C. whereas it is important to awaken among the citizens of Europe not only an understanding for the tasks of the EU but also as broad as possible support for, and participation in, the implementation of its objectives,
 - D. stressing the contribution which a Europe-wide referendum could make to democratisation, closeness to the citizen and transparency, since it presents an opportunity for an intensive and comprehensive campaign to inform citizens about the Europe of the future,
 - E. having regard to the positive effects which a referendum could have on the Europeanisation of national internal policies and of the national electoral movements for the 2004 European elections,
 - F. whereas it is essential for a European Constitution to undergo ratification in the Member States, a process which cannot replace but may ideally complement and lead into a referendum,
1. Calls on the IGC to speak out in favour of holding a joint Europe-wide referendum on the future European Constitution (Constitutional Treaty);
 2. Urges that this referendum be held in conjunction with the 2004 European elections;
 3. Stresses that such a referendum can only complement the necessary ratification process and should therefore not be regarded as legally binding on the governments and national parliaments;
 4. Proposes, along the lines of the double majority principle, that the consent of the European people should be deemed to have been obtained once 60% of the citizens and at least two-thirds of the EU states have expressed a positive opinion on the Constitutional Treaty;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the other EU Institutions, the Member States, the Members of the Convention and the Inter-Governmental Conference.