

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1805/05  
by Marie-Line Reynaud (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Referendums and the Constitution

Several Member States have decided to ratify the Constitutional Treaty by way of a referendum, calling on their citizens to vote. However, it seems that other EU citizens – long-term residents of the Member States concerned – are being prevented from voting on the text, which directly concerns them.

We are always being told that the Constitutional Treaty addresses all EU citizens.

If it is true that each Member State is free to choose the way in which citizens other than nationals may – or may not – take part in national votes, is it not contradictory and downright discriminatory to exclude these other European citizens, some of whom are long-term residents of the Member States concerned, from a historic debate which, theoretically, is open to them?

Does such exclusion not strike a sour note among all the celebrations surrounding a text that is theoretically addressed to all European citizens? What does the Commission intend to do to rectify this situation?