



European Network Against Racism

Let Europe be equal and “inclusive”

ENAR’s second contribution to the Convention on the Future of Europe

It is with great interest that the European Network Against Racism, ENAR¹, has followed the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe from its very beginning. However, ENAR does fear that the current atmosphere of political and economic insecurity in Europe is to a great extent hijacking the debate on the future of Europe and narrowing it down to a short-term perspective. We therefore urge the Convention to take the following concerns into consideration and to promote a Europe of “inclusion” and of respect for the fundamental values of equality, fundamental rights and respect for diversity.

Looking at the current proposals under discussion and at the final reports of the different working groups of the Convention, and following in particular the debate taking place within the Working Group for a Social Europe, we are more and more convinced that a number of issues are falling in between the mandates of the working groups. As a consequence they will enjoy less debate, although they have been and will continue to be crucial for a democratic construction of Europe.

We believe that:

- **Equality** should remain one of the main **threads running throughout the entire Constitution**, since it is a **fundamental right** but also a **value, an objective, a competence and a policy of Europe**.
- **Racism and xenophobia**, are still a major obstacle today for the full enjoyment of freedom, dignity, security and justice.
- **European citizenship**, as a principle, should be based not only on nationality of the Member States but also on legal residence, in order to guarantee that Europe will evolve in an inclusive rather than an exclusive way in the future. Legal residents can already file a Petition to the Parliament, make a complaint to the Ombudsman and enjoy certain voting rights in a number of European countries. In addition there is an initiative at the European level to grant “long-term resident” status to persons remaining legally in a Member State’s territory for a minimum period of five years. This indicates a clear evolution in time towards **a legal status as close as possible to that enjoyed by European Citizens**, as was agreed in Tampere.

¹ ENAR, the European Network Against Racism, is a Europe-wide network with over 600 members which is dedicated to the fight against all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity and religion. Please visit our website www.enar-eu.org for further information on our objectives and activities. ENAR is a member of the Social Platform.

We therefore urge the Convention:

è to refer to **equality as a value** and incorporate **equal treatment** of people and **elimination of inequalities** amongst the **objectives** of the Union. **Article 13 TEC** should furthermore remain a **strong competence** of the Union and this should be reflected by the **strategic place** that is given to it in the structure of the Union's competences, namely in or as close as possible to the 15 first articles of the Constitution.

è to maintain the reference to the **prevention and the combating of racism and xenophobia** as one of the core paths to achieve an area of freedom, security and justice, as is currently stated in **Article 29 TEU**.

è to rethink the **principle of citizenship** in order for it to reflect and stimulate the current evolution and, with concern for the long-term perspective, to open the door towards an **"inclusive"** Europe by rewriting the existing **article 17 TEC** in such a way to make a citizen of the Union *"any person holding the nationality of a member state or residing legally within a Member State"*.

Finally, we are clear that these points can only lead to **real and concrete results** if they are supported by **democratic, efficient and transparent procedures** and therefore urge the Convention to change the procedures concerning the three above-mentioned items to **co-decision** and respecting **qualified majority voting**.

ENAR
Brussels,
6th February 2003