

## Presidential declaration in THE HAGUE

by Mr Gaston THORN

The Confederation of Liberal and Democratic Parties of the European Community, composed of the following parties :

Belgium: PVV/PLP/PL

Denmark: venstre/Rad. Venstre

Germany: F.D. P.

France: Radical Socialist Party. Radical Left Movement (Independent Republicans)

Italy: Italian Liberal Party. Italian Republican

Luxembourg: Democratic Party

Netherlands: V.V.D.

United Kingdom: Liberal Party

met in The Hague in the Ridderzaal, to study the interim results of the working parties set up at the Stuttgart Congress to prepare an electoral platform for elections to the European Parliament in 1978.

The working parties were:

1. Human and Civil Rights

Chairman: Dr Hermod Lannung (Rad. Venstre)

2. The European Institutions

Chairman: Mr Aart GEURTSEN (VVD)

Member of the Liberal Group of the EP

3. Food and Agriculture

Chairman: Mr Niels Anker KOFOED (Venstre)

Member of the Liberal Group of the EP

4. Economic and Monetary Union

Chairman: Giovanni MALAGODI (PLI)

5. Regional policy

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Chairman: Mr John GOSS (Liberal Party)

## 6. Foreign and security policy

Chairman: Mr Ove GULDBERG (venstre)

Member of the Liberal Group of the EP

## 7. Environment policy

Chairman: Dr. Peter Menke-Glilchert (FDP)

These working parties based their work on the Stuttgart Declaration adopted at the inaugural meeting of the Confederation on 25 and 26 March 1976.

The guiding principles of the Stuttgart Declaration are as follows:

1. The European Union must be founded on the common conviction that the freedom of the individual, equal opportunities for all and the free competition of ideas and parties are indispensable elements of a democratic society.
2. The European Union needs a free democratic constitution based on the principles of division of powers, majority voting and the protection of minorities.
3. The European Union must secure the participation of workers in the management, control and profits of undertakings.
4. The European Union must assure steady and balanced economic growth, and effective social protection, which can no longer be done on a national level.
5. The European Union should introduce a coordinated economic and financial policy, without excessive influence by public enterprise, with a view to ensuring optimal economic growth.
6. The European Union needs a common foreign policy, side by side with our partners in the Atlantic Alliance, designed to serve the freedom and security of Europe and peace in the world.

The Congress thus based its work on the seven interim reports, the most important points of which can be summarized as follows:

### I. HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The Governments of the Member States must sign, ratify and implement the European Convention on Human Rights and accept the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights in these matters.

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2. The Governments of the Member States must accept the European Social Charter as the necessary guiding principle for their social policy.

3. They must make the protection of individual rights more effective.

## II. INSTITUTIONS

1. The European Commission must be the forerunner of a true European Government.

2. A Council of States should exercise legislative powers together with

3. The European Parliament, elected by proportional representation and possessing full parliamentary powers.

## III. ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

1. Economic and monetary cooperation in Europe is absolutely essential in view of the destructive effects of inflation which threatens the prosperity of our peoples and the European liberal society.

2. The European Union must progressively ensure a fairer distribution by harmonizing wages and taxes.

3. In the European Union the payment of unemployment benefits must be centralized.

4. National budgets must be progressively replaced by a Community budget.

## IV. REGIONAL POLICY

I. Regional Councils shall be set up for the task of coordinating and legislating for regional policy in the European Union.

2. The work of the regions shall lie in the following fields: health, environment, internal security, the arts and transport.

## V. AGRICULTURE

1. The aim of the agricultural and food policies must be to provide aid to guarantee food supplies to consumers at reasonable prices.

2. A structural agricultural policy in the European Union should ensure that production meets the needs of the market without additional financial cost to taxpayers.

3. Regional policy should provide aid for less efficient production units in less favoured areas, to prevent depopulation.

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## VI. ENVIRONMENT

The standards and levies imposed under the European Union's environmental policy must take account of international competition and the effects on employment.

## VII. FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

1. The European Union as such must have a single foreign cooperation and trade policy.
2. The European Union's defence policy is a natural complement to a common foreign policy, the need for which is already recognized.
3. The Community shall be open to all democratic European States. The Confederation welcomes the opening of accession negotiations with Greece.
4. Development aid policy must be directed principally towards the poorest countries.

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