

RESOLUTION: THE EUROPEAN UNION TO COME

FINAL ADOPTED TEXT

The XIVth Congress of the Federation of European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Parties in the European Community meeting in Poitiers, France on June 6-7th, 1991:

a. Recalling the leading role the ELDR Member Parties have always played in the fight for European Union and in particular:

- * their historic commitment to democratic renewal;
- * that the 1989 electoral programme identified that making the Community institutions more democratically accountable by involving the citizen in this process, is a prerequisite to the process of building a European Union;
- * that in the framework of the Assizes meetings, the LDR members of both the European Parliament and national parliaments called for a European Constitution for the coming European Union;
- * that the Declaration of the Leaders of its Member Parties, in Berlin in November 1990, stressed the need for Europe to speak with one voice on foreign policy, defence and security;
- * the contribution made by LDR Members of the European Parliament towards the advancement of human and civil rights both inside and outside the EC, and the resolution tabled by the LDR-Group in the European Parliament calling for the inclusion in the Treaties of a Declaration of Human Rights and Liberties, which was adopted by the European Parliament on April 12th 1989.

b. Noting with satisfaction that these objectives and observations are now accepted by the majority of the political parties in the European Community, as was for example, shown during the Assizes in Rome.

c. Concerned that:

- * despite all efforts being made, the pace of progress towards 1992 is slowing down in some areas;
- * the recent Gulf crisis has demonstrated the great difficulty the Community has in coming to a common position on foreign policy and security;
- * the Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) on Political Union is unlikely to produce the institutional and political reforms necessary to place European unification on a sound democratic basis;

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Proposes:

I. A LEAD FOR THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE

a. Convinced that:

- * the people of Europe want a true European Union of a federal type, where decisions are taken as close to them as possible;
- * such a union will need true democratic Community structures instead of inter-governmental cooperation;
- * the governments of the Member states are reluctant to give up their powers so as to restructure the Community in a efficient and democratic way;
- * for the European citizen, the real protection of minority rights, cultural identity, language and quality of life lies not in the nation state , but in the larger European Union we seek;

b. Calls upon the European Community institutions, member governments and national parliaments:

- * to recognise that their first duty is to the citizens, to whom they owe their existence;
- * to establish formally by Treaty revision the concept of EC citizenship;
- * to make freedom of movement a reality for all citizens of the Community by enhancing civil, cultural, electoral and social rights;
- * to establish the effective participation of the regions of the EC in the creation of the European Union;
- * to introduce immediately a uniform electoral procedure for the European Parliament elections in 1994 in which seats won broadly match votes cast and in which all EC citizens have the right to vote and stand wherever they choose;
- * to give reality to this duty by mounting a massive information campaign to explain to the citizens how they can participate in the process of building European Union in a meaningful way, i. e. European citizens must be able to enjoy the right to study, work and live wherever they choose in the Community;

Proposes:

II A LEAD IN COMMON FOREIGN POLICY, SECURITY AND DEFENCE

a. Believing that:

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- * a strong united Europe is a prerequisite for a peaceful and prosperous new world order;
 - * the Community can only play its role by establishing a genuine common foreign, security and defence policy within the democratic structures of the European Union;
 - * a peaceful world order requires the further strengthening of the United Nations, where the Community should act together and where the two member states which are permanent members of the Security Council have a special responsibility to represent the views and policies of the Community;
 - * the western European Union can be an appropriate vehicle for the incorporation of security and defence in the European integration process, but that the competences of the WEU should be gradually absorbed into the common foreign and security policy of the Union;
 - * better coordination is needed to make the most effective use of the resources, voted within the general Community budget, for cooperation with Third World countries;
 - * close coordination and cooperation within NATO remains a cornerstone of a European security system; nevertheless NATO should redefine its task in view of the recent developments in Central and Eastern Europe;
 - * the European Community must do all in its powers to assist the development of democracy, economic recovery and environmental rehabilitation in Central and Eastern Europe, while continuing its support for the countries of the Lome Convention;
 - * a true military integration cannot effectively and efficiently be realised without a common European policy for military equipment;
- b. Calls for:
- * the abolition of Art. 223 of the EEC Treaty, concerning the arms trade, so bringing within the competence of the European Union all questions concerning arms and war material production, trade and control;
 - * a Community initiative to ensure effective control of arms exports;
 - * first steps towards the creation of a European army by the establishment of an EC rapid response armed force for peace-keeping operations, or for purposes of humanitarian aid;
 - a. * the extension of the European Parliament's assent procedure to all important international agreements;

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* better coordination of development policy among the Member states, leading to the establishment of a single Community development policy.

Proposes:

III. A LEAD IN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

a. Recalling the conclusions of the 1987 ELDR Congress in Lisbon, that a greater economic convergence and cohesion is an important condition for the successful development of the Economic and Monetary Union;

b. Reaffirming support for:

* the establishment of the Economic and Monetary Union in three stages according to the Delors report;

* the conclusions concerning the establishment of the Economic and Monetary Union drawn by the special Rome Summit in October 1990, particularly the deadlines and conditions referred to;

c. Convinced that:

* the EMU is a necessary step in the completion of the Single Market and will furthermore be the easiest and quickest way to achieve economic convergence and cohesion;

* the establishment of a single European currency will make economic and monetary unity a concrete reality for the citizens of the European Community;

* a single currency will strengthen the international economic role of the Community;

d. Calls for:

* the establishment of a European Central Bank System by 1994, which will be obliged to maintain monetary stability and be independent of national governments and their directives;

* the establishment of a single European Currency, the ECU, by 1997;

* The gradual replacement of individual EC Member States by a fully-responsible European Community in the G-7, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Proposes:

a. IV A LEAD FOR ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY AND EFFICIENCY

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a. Recognising that the European Union can only be built on an efficient and democratic foundation in respecting the principle of subsidiarity;

b. Believing that:

* the European Parliament must become the equal partner of the Council in all legislative matters;

* granting co-decision power to the European Parliament must be the minimum outcome of the Inter-Governmental Conferences, if the results are to be accepted by the national parliaments;

* there is an urgent need for an overall review of EC's financial resources and allocations and that revenues should in the future be determined by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, acting in common accord.

c. Calls upon:

* the governments of the Member states to support the proposals of the Foreign Ministers of Germany and Italy regarding enlarged powers for the European Parliament and a substantial reduction of the democratic deficit in the EC, and to inscribe the principle of subsidiarity, as well as its legality (justiciability) in the Treaties;

* the Inter-Governmental Conference on Political Union to take all measures necessary to open the government of the EC to democratic scrutiny and accountability; therefore the Council shall meet in public when acting in legislative capacity;

* the European Parliament to be granted the right of legislative retrieval in all matters of EC legislation;

* the Inter-Governmental Conference to include in the Treaties the Declaration of Human Rights and Liberties, which was adopted by the European Parliament on April 12th 1989 and to become a signatory of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, together with the United Nations Conventions and notably the Charter of Children's Rights;

Expresses:

V THE LIBERAL DEMAND FOR PROGRESS

a. Convinced that progress on European Union crucially depends on the support and the involvement by the citizen of the Community;

b. Convinced that such progress can only be made if the Inter-Governmental Conferences follow the philosophy of the original Treaty of

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Rome and the aim fixed by the founders of the European Community, namely the objective of a federal Union of a Community of peoples and not just an association between Member states;

c. urges:

the ELDR MEPs to declare publicly that they will reject all arrangements ex art. 238 EEC as long as no substantial progress for the rights of the European Parliament is made in the Inter-Governmental Conference on Political Union, especially where the following criteria have not been met:

- * each legislative act of the Community must be approved by both the EP and the Council;
- * the President of the Commission and its members may only be appointed by the agreement of the European Parliament;
- * the European Parliament must agree on all important international treaties;
- * every change made to the Treaties requires the agreement of the European Parliament.

d. Therefore calls upon:

* Liberal, Democrat and Reform Members in their national parliaments throughout the Community to introduce proposals in their respective parliaments to declare that unless the rights of the European Parliament are substantially strengthened by the Inter-Governmental Conferences and the proposed Community model progressively brings under its control all the competences which have been and will be conferred on it, and unless the European Parliament has given its assent to the results of the IGCs, these national parliaments will refuse to ratify any proposed changes to the Treaties;

- a. * the Member states to constantly review the developments in Europe and elsewhere after the ratification of the IGC's results with the view to convene a follow-up Conference during the fourth legislative period of the directly elected European Parliament.

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