

Appeal to the European Convention

Brussels 30 April 2003

The following signatory associations, active in all European countries, congratulate the Convention on the Future of Europe for proposing guarantees for the functioning of participatory democracy in Title VI.

In this spirit, our associations call for the future European Constitution not to pose any obstacle to the right of individuals to make free decisions concerning their lifestyles and personal choices on all questions linked to human existence.

The signatory associations are concerned about preserving and continuing to develop the gains acquired in their various fields of activity, be it in the field of education, morality, family and the condition of women, contraception, abortion, euthanasia, divorce or sexual orientation, etc...

The signatory associations note that article 37 provides Churches with a right to regular intervention into the policy-making of the European Union, thus allowing them to assert their religious options on matters listed above and many others such as discrimination against women, homosexuals, the fight against HIV/AIDS or on issues related to biomedical research.

The separation of Church and State must apply to all areas of community life.

The signatory associations therefore launch a solemn appeal to all members of the Convention regardless of their philosophical or religious convictions to request the withdrawal of the entirety of Article 37.

The following representative associations have launched this appeal:

International Planned Parenthood Federation /European network
European Network "Church on the move"
European Humanist Federation
Right to Die in Europe
European Association for Teaching

We support this Appeal

Name/Organisation	Capacity	Address	Signature
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Please send back to the European Humanist Federation (fhe@ulb.ac.be - Fax : +32 2 627 68 01) before 31 May 2003. Thank you.