

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The European Humanist Federation,

CONSIDERING THAT

- 1) The fundamental importance of a Constitutional Treaty for the future of the European Union
- 2) The high priority to be granted to sustainable development in the Union's objectives and policies
- 3) The Amsterdam Treaty, and particularly its articles 2 and 117 regarding sustainable development
- 4) The Commission Communication of 15 May 2001 on a sustainable development strategy
- 5) EHF contributions to
 - the Commission White Paper on European Governance, and notably on the Union foundations (essential values, political objectives)
 - the Convention work on civil society, European citizenship and the essential foundations of the future Constitutional Treaty
- 6) The reduction of social inequalities, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, the protection of our environment, the rational use of natural resources are stakes of concern to the whole world
- 7) The concept of sustainable development is reflecting these stakes to the extent it includes concerns of social, economic and environmental nature
- 8) Implementing the sustainable development concept within and outside the Union will enable her to act as a driving force in the evolution towards a more humane globalization
- 9) Our moral responsibility towards future generations is committed and in line with the humanist ideals

INSISTENTLY REQUESTS

1. That the wording of the European Union objectives (Part one, title I, article 3) be completed in the following way :

« These objectives will be pursued within a sustainable development perspective, able to respond to the needs of present generations without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to respond to their own needs. Such a development will aim at keeping a right balance between the demands of economy, the improvement of living conditions and the limits imposed by the physical environment and the use of natural resources. »

2. That in Part two of the Treaty (Union policies and their implementation), the obligation to integrate the objective of sustainable development be explicitly stated, notably in the following areas :

A3 Policies in other specific areas

- I. Social policy
- IV. Agriculture and fisheries
- V. Environment
- VI. Consumer protection
- VII. Transport
- IX. Research and Development

A5 Areas where the Union may take supporting actions

- I. Employment
- II. Public health
- III. Industry
- V. Education, professional training, youth

B External action

- I. Commercial policy
- II. Development cooperation
- V. The conclusion of international agreements

3. That the Union policies be implemented in accordance with the principles of participatory democracy as foreseen in title VI, article 34 of the constitutional Treaty, which is characterized by a high level of openness and accountability to citizens' organisations of all kinds.