

PUBLIC SERVICES AND SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

The European Humanist Federation,

CONSIDERING

- 1) The fundamental importance of a constitutional Treaty for the enhancement of democracy and social cohesion within the Union
- 2) The key role of the public sector, too often minimized or forgotten, in the employment and services sectors at the level of national economies
- 3) The fact that the public sector ensures equality of treatment for all, and is an important element of collective solidarity
- 4) EHF contributions to
 - the Commission's White Paper on European governance
 - the work of the Convention on civil society
- 5) The Treaty of Amsterdam, and notably its article 136
- 6) The existence of a Cohesion Fund, which already allowed to narrow the social gap, and will be called upon to play an increased role to the benefit of the new member States in the enlarged Union
- 7) The fact that, once ratified, the constitutional Treaty will replace four existing Treaties, and consequently become the sole reference in this matter

INSISTENTLY REQUESTS

That in its Part 2, and notably the sections

- A.3.II « Social Policy »
- A.3.III « Economic and Social Cohesion »
- A.5.I « Employment »
- A.5.II « Public Health »,

the constitutional Treaty

1. Clearly defines the public services and services of general interest to be guaranteed to all citizens without exception
2. Stipulates that all provisions will be made in order to enhance the public sector in the following areas :
 - Education
 - Culture
 - Health
 - Security of the people
 - Protection of workers
 - Protection of the environment
 - Assistance to underprivileged, aged and handicapped persons.