

CONV 806/03

CONTRIB 363

COVER NOTE

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| From | Secretariat |
| To | Convention |
| Subject : | Contribution by Mr Edmund Wittbrodt, Member of the Convention and Ms Marta Fogler, Alternate Member of the Convention: " Our Constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people. " |

The Secretary-General of the Convention has received the contribution annexed hereto from Mr. Edmund Wittbrodt, Member of the Convention and Ms Marta Fogler, Alternate Member of the Convention.

Our Constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people.

Thucydides II,37

Conscious that Europe is a continent that has brought forth civilisation; that its inhabitants, arriving in successive waves since the first ages of mankind, have gradually developed the values underlying humanism: equality of persons, **solidarity**, freedom, respect for reason **and belief**,

Drawing inspiration from the cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, which, nourished first by the civilisations of Greece and Rome, characterised by spiritual impulse always present in its heritage, **and by** the philosophical currents of the **Christianity**, the **Renaissance** and **the** Enlightenment, has embedded within the life of society its perception of the central role of the human person and his inviolable and inalienable rights, and of respect for law,

Believing that reunited Europe **will ever base on fundamental values, as tolerance and human dignity, which are the values of those who believe in God as the source of truth, justice, good and beauty, and of those who do not share such a belief, but respect these universal values arising from the other sources;** intends to continue along this path of

civilisation, progress and prosperity, for the good of all its inhabitants, including the weakest and most deprived, that it wishes to remain a continent open to **different cultures**, learning, and social progress; and that it wishes to deepen the **multilevel democracy with transparent public life**, and to strive for peace, justice and solidarity throughout the world,

Convinced that, while remaining proud of their own national identities and history, the peoples of Europe are determined to transcend their ancient divisions, and, united in an ever closer fashion, to forge a common destiny,

Convinced that, thus “united in its diversity”, Europe offers them the best chance of pursuing, with due regard for the rights of each individual and for their responsibilities towards future generations and the Earth, the great venture which makes of it a special area of human hope,

Grateful to the members of the European Convention for having prepared this Constitution on behalf of the citizens and States of Europe.

[Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:]
