



27 June 2000

Motion of INGOs having consultative status with the Council of Europe

407 international non-governmental organisations representing,
in the 41-nation Council of Europe, all aspects of life and tens of millions of people

The international non-governmental organisations meeting on 27 June at the Palais d'Europe in Strasbourg unanimously call on the Convention drawing up the draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the member states which shall be deciding upon it, to ensure that:

1. the principle of solidarity be included at the beginning of the Charter on a par with the principle of equality and the affirmation of the dignity of the human being;
2. the indivisibility of human rights be confirmed by the contents of the Charter and expressed in its structure, and that the universality of these economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights be acknowledged;
3. the European Union accede to the two Council of Europe instruments which implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, namely the European Convention on Human Rights and the revised European Social Charter, including their additional protocols;
4. the Charter of Fundamental Rights be incorporated into the treaties of the European Union, thereby acquiring a binding force;
5. the new risks and needs concerning protection of citizens in our society be covered by the Charter, including in the field of bioethics, the environment and information technology;
6. the principle of participatory democracy be strengthened in the Charter by including recognition of the right to civil dialogue granting organised civil society the right to information, communication and consultation in order to participate, propose, negotiate and verify political processes.

The INGOs having consultative status with the Council of Europe call for the opening of a transparent, democratic and participatory process on the future constitution of the European Union, independently of the drafting of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.