

*50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome*  
Youth Summit "Your Europe – Your Future. Youth debates for tomorrow's Europe" Rome, Italy, 24–25 March 2007

*Guiding questions for the national debates*

**The future of the Constitutional Treaty**

1. What kind of basic text does the EU need? Does a Treaty suffice, or should it be a Constitution?
2. How should this basic text be drafted and adopted (and by whom)?
3. What should be in such a basic text? And what should not be in?

**Building democracy and civil society in Europe**

1. What is the role of civil society in a democracy? Do youth organisations have a specific place in civil society?
2. How can/do civil society and specifically youth organisations strengthen democracy and the participation of (young) citizens? Which supporting policies are needed?
3. What is your perspective on article I-47 in the proposed Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe? Is it sufficient or should it be modified? How should it be implemented?

**ARTICLE I-47**

The principle of participatory democracy

- (1) The institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action.
- (2) The institution shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society.
- (3) The Commission shall carry out broad consultations with parties concerned in order to ensure that the Union's actions are coherent and transparent.
- (4) Not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of member states may take initiative of inviting the Commission, within the framework of its power, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Constitution. European laws shall determine the provisions for the procedures and conditions required for such a citizens' initiative, including the minimum number of Member States from which such citizens must come.

**The social and economic model**

1. Which elements of the European social and economic model that should be maintained or strengthened?
2. Should the current social and economic model be redefined—and if yes, how?
3. Taking into account the demographic changes in Europe, how can the fragile position of youth be improved? Should new forms of intergenerational solidarity be developed?

### Sustainable Development

1. What is the role of the European Union in the promotion of sustainable development?
2. What key policy changes would be needed to achieve sustainability? (You might want to consider: energy policy; agricultural policy; environment policy; transport policy; economic policies)
3. Can sustainable development be effectively reconciled with poverty reduction? What policies should be pursued?

### Youth and Education

1. What role should the EU play in the areas of youth and education? (Consider Article III-282 of the proposed Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe)
2. How should EU policies support and promote non-formal education?
3. What should be the focus of EU policies specifically targeting youth?

#### ARTICLE III-282

1. The Union shall contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and complementing their action. It shall fully respect the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity. The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function.

Union action shall be aimed at:

- (a) developing the European dimension in education, particularly through the teaching and dissemination of the languages of the Member States;
- (b) encouraging mobility of students and teachers, inter alia by encouraging the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study;
- (c) promoting cooperation between educational establishments;
- (d) developing exchanges of information and experience on issues common to the education systems of the Member States;
- (e) encouraging the development of youth exchanges and of exchanges of socio-educational instructors and encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe;
- (f) encouraging the development of distance education;
- (g) developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and cooperation between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially young sportsmen and sportswomen.

### The EU in a globalising world

1. Does the EU need a common foreign policy, and why?
2. What should be the main principles underlying an EU foreign policy?
3. What is needed in order for EU citizens to identify themselves with the EU's foreign action?