

Message to the European Council

adopted by the Central Council (Paris - 3 June 2005)

The Central Council of the European League for Economic Cooperation, meeting on 3 June in Paris, having considered the present state of the ratification process and the possible impact of the negative votes by France and the Netherlands in the referendum on the Constitutional Treaty:

- ◇ **recalls** that this Treaty has already been ratified by ten member states representing more than half of the Union's population;
- ◇ **deplores** the stoppage in Europe's forward march resulting from the rejection by two countries of a Treaty which, although resulting from a compromise painstakingly achieved during the Convention, nevertheless brings important improvements in many fields;
- ◇ **notes** that the democratic debate around this Treaty failed to pay sufficient attention to its achievements and became diverted from its true subject by numerous factors and misrepresentations;
- ◇ **is concerned** about the detrimental impact of such choices on the future of the European Union: return to the Nice Treaty and the triple majority rules it requires for decisions; triumph of a minimalist concept of Europe; increased difficulty of establishing enhanced cooperations; inability for Europe to take its place on the world stage as a major power;
- ◇ **wishes** that the process of ratifying the Treaty should be continued until complete in all member states, and that the European Council should in the meantime consider the situation created by the choices already expressed, and put forward solutions making it possible to preserve the essential achievements of the Convention;
- ◇ earnestly **entreats** the Heads of States and Governments of member countries to assume their responsibilities of defining and defending with greater clarity the European citizens' common interest, and to make it accepted by public opinion;
- ◇ **is determined** to carry on this work and, in cooperation with associations and movements that strive to promote the deepening of the political and institutional dimension which the European Union needs, to propose solutions that are likely to make European policies closer to citizens and more attractive to them.
