



**For a Europe of the Citizens:  
Priorities for a Better Future  
("Rome Manifesto")**

Draft document

For the EPP Congress in Rome, 30-31 March 2006

**AMENDED VERSION  
12 MARCH 2006**

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction and Analysis	page 3
2. The European Union – a Union of Values	page 5
3. Clear Priorities, Better Legislation, Less Bureaucracy	page 8
4. A more transparent Europe capable of Action	page 17
5. Conclusion - committed to the European Idea	page 20

## 1. Introduction and Analysis

The process of European integration is the greatest achievement in the history of our continent. The European Union has given its citizens enduring peace, freedom, stability and prosperity. Our political family has influenced this historical development in a decisive way. Since enlargement by ten new members, Europe has made an enormous step forward towards reunification. Two years later, we can already see the enormously positive effects for our citizens all over Europe – in political, economic and social terms. The unification of Europe has created growth and employment throughout Europe. The European project must remain what its founding fathers envisioned it to be – a project for hope and prosperity for the entire continent.

We are the political force that has shaped the European project like no other. From the founding of the European Communities after the Second World War to European reunification, with the collapse of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe, and the introduction of the EURO, it is courageous statesmen belonging to our political family that have played a decisive role. Now the European People's Party is determined to shape the Europe of the future. Today, as in the past, the extreme Left and the extreme Right often rejected European integration and still demonstrate today that they have no ideas for the future of Europe. Throughout history, the EPP has been the European party with a clear vision for Europe because we are committed to solve the problems and to address the concerns of our citizens. Europe has to take the necessary actions to achieve its goals.

The EPP is convinced that it was the right decision to draft a Constitutional Treaty as a new basis for the European Union. We want the achievements and reforms proposed by the Constitutional Treaty to become reality, in order to make the European Union work in a more transparent, democratic and efficient way. This will increase the support for the European Union among its citizens.

However, the outcome of the referenda in France and the Netherlands has shown that public support for the way in which European integration is carried out, is decreasing. The outcome of these referenda was not accidental, but represents a tendency that is growing stronger in many EU Member States. This is partly linked to the fact that national governments do not sufficiently highlight the benefits of the European Union to their citizens. Our citizens want a strong Europe and they want Europe to deliver an added value and to deal with the problems that concern them. The European Union is too often identified with negative aspects of bureaucracy and un-transparent decision-making processes, and blamed for the challenges and consequences of globalization on our economies and in our societies.

The most recent enlargement has been viewed by the EPP as a "win-win" achievement which has brought substantial benefits to all Member States. Despite this fact, many citizens are becoming more and more critical of the European Union. Many people are critical about enlargement without the solution of some important internal problems and, in general, about the direction in which the Union has developed. This cannot merely be explained by a lack of information about the EU; a change in approach is needed: it is not the citizens who should go looking for information, but information should go looking for the citizens. Therefore, we propose to strengthen EU identity by fully engaging citizens in the process. Only a Union which is cohesive and which

52 defends its common values and standards, will be strong enough to safeguard our  
53 common interests in the world.

54  
55 It is essential to identify the problems and shortcomings of our integration model. We  
56 want a Europe of citizens. Therefore, we want to strengthen the principle of  
57 subsidiarity, solidarity and personalism, in the framework of a rational division of  
58 competences. We also want a transparent institutional structure, able to organize a  
59 network of political activity, with the simplification of decision-making procedures and  
60 clarification of spheres of responsibility. A network that is able to stimulate the political  
61 contribution of the citizens. A European Union of 25 plus Member States presents new  
62 challenges as to how to respond to the concerns of its citizens.

63  
64 The European Union has to provide a competitive economic framework in order to  
65 achieve economic growth and create jobs for European citizens, taking into account  
66 social cohesion and environmental standards. This process can only succeed if the  
67 social partners and other organizations in our societies face up to their responsibilities  
68 in shaping Europe's future. A better coordination of economic policies at a European  
69 level and a strict adherence to the Stability and Growth Pact throughout the European  
70 Union are essential to maintain economic stability, which is a necessary condition to  
71 achieve these goals. Only then we can face the challenges of globalization and profit  
72 over time from its opportunities.

73  
74 The EPP is convinced that a clear majority of people all over Europe wants a strong  
75 European Union that deals with problems swiftly and effectively at the European level  
76 problems which cannot be sufficiently addressed by the Member States, either at  
77 national level or at regional or local levels, on their own. The security issues posed in a  
78 world facing new threats to freedom, democracy and stability will be very important.  
79 We must highlight and explain to Europeans the "added value" of European integration  
80 and point out the advantages – many of which are taken for granted – that are now  
81 part of their daily life. The time has come to re-define the priorities of Europe in a  
82 more clear and concise way, and respond with direction, conviction and resolution to  
83 the concerns of Europeans. For this task we need a determined and far-sighted  
84 political leadership which is inspired by the courage and conviction of Europe's  
85 founding fathers. Through this Manifesto, the European People's Party aspires to  
86 tackle the challenge at hand.

## 87 **2. The European Union – a Union of Values**

88  
89

90 The project of European integration has always been based on common values and  
91 the will to work together, in order to achieve freedom, peace, stability and prosperity  
92 throughout Europe and to promote its longstanding values. The European Union will  
93 continue to be successful if all EU Member States and EU institutions – which have the  
94 task of defending the project of European integration - share a focused and cohesive  
95 vision of the future, ready to tackle efficiently and effectively their concerns and to  
96 play a leading role on the world stage. We must rebuild the self-confidence of  
97 Europeans and the European Union as a whole.

98

99 The rich and diverse political culture of the European People's Party is a characteristic  
100 example of Europe itself. Coming together from an array of political traditions, the EPP  
101 member parties are united by a core set of values and principles: dignity of the human  
102 person, freedom and responsibility, fundamental equality, justice, subsidiarity and  
103 solidarity. These values are common to the Member States' societies, in which  
104 democratic pluralism, the rule of law, non-discrimination, tolerance, and private  
105 property, based on the social market economy, prevail.

106

107 Facing new trends in the socio-cultural life in the western world, the European People's  
108 Party has always been guided by these values and traditions, including the respect for  
109 the family, traditional minorities and historical religions and churches, which, for ages,  
110 have been a strong basis for the European civilization. The subsidiarity principle in  
111 family law should be observed and this area should also, in the future, remain a  
112 competence of Member States. The EU institutions are urged to respect and safeguard  
113 this principle.

114

115 Our universal spirit, Europe's Judeo-Christian roots and common cultural heritage, as  
116 well as the classic and humanist history of Europe and the achievements of the period  
117 of the Enlightenment, are the foundation of our political platform; our commitment  
118 and forward-looking approach for a united and strong Europe has given us the  
119 strength to evolve and to tackle effectively Europe's challenges. Terrorism and  
120 fundamentalism, which are directed against our values, intend to destroy our free  
121 societies and have no justification.

122

123 Our identity has been shaped by the founding fathers of Europe - Jean Monnet, Robert  
124 Schuman, Alcide de Gasperi and Konrad Adenauer. They built Europe on the values  
125 and ideals which we are determined to defend. The EPP is the political party on the  
126 European level which is ready to tackle the huge tasks ahead of us. We want to  
127 provide the platform for a new generation of politicians and for new solutions, so that  
128 our vision of Europe can be realized.

129

130 Our political methods, based on subsidiarity and solidarity, are the guiding principles of  
131 our societies. As we do not believe in the state being responsible for every single area  
132 of people's lives, we do not believe that Europe can work if it deals with issues that  
133 can much better be dealt with on a national, or even regional or local, level. That is  
134 why the EPP has for years been calling for a clearer distribution of competences  
135 between European, national and sub-national levels - the latter on the basis of the  
136 national Constitutions. We are aware that the European Union of 25 or more members  
137 (and 27 with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, if they prove that they

138 fulfill the requirements) needs a different approach than the Communities of the six  
139 founding members. It is clear that a European Union of 25 Member States needs to  
140 have sufficient budgetary means to fulfill its tasks. The Constitutional Treaty offers the  
141 right answers to most of the problems.

142  
143 In order to strengthen the support for the European integration process among our  
144 citizens, an explanation of our common European identity is truly fundamental. It is  
145 about living in a common geographic and political space of peace, freedom, democracy  
146 and prosperity – while promoting our cultural diversity, which is one of the strengths  
147 of Europe. Important means to achieve these goals are further steps to integrate the  
148 historic heritage and memories of both parts of Europe, creating a balanced moral and  
149 political assessment of all recent totalitarian dictatorships. At the same time, new  
150 challenges such as the role of Europe in a globalized world, demand new approaches.  
151 Many urgent problems in our societies, like the threat of terrorism, illegal migration,  
152 human trafficking and organized crime, as well as common challenges, such as energy  
153 policy, or common infrastructure projects, can only be dealt with efficiently if we  
154 manage to act together.

155  
156 The debate on the borders of Europe is at the heart of our common European identity.  
157 It has been a long time since Europe was just a customs union that promoted common  
158 economic policies. The European Union has already developed into a political union  
159 with common borders, in which both the inviolable nature of its internal borders in the  
160 sense of the Helsinki Final Act must be assured, as well as the security of its external  
161 common borders, as the basis for stability and peace. The feeling of “belonging  
162 together” and sharing the same values and principles must, therefore, be exemplified  
163 and strengthened, in order not to lose public support for the European project. The  
164 balance between the enlargement of the European Union and its consolidation is  
165 essential for the viability of the project – otherwise we put at risk the achievements of  
166 the past and create enormous difficulties for the future. Therefore, the European  
167 Union has to be reformed at latest before the next enlargement, after Romania and  
168 Bulgaria.

169  
170 Membership of the European Union remains the most attractive option for many of the  
171 European neighbours of the EU. In the past decades, EU enlargement has been the  
172 main tool for promoting freedom, democracy, peace, stability and economic  
173 development, as well as human rights and the rule of law across the whole of Europe.  
174 But, following the most recent enlargement to the ten new Member States, and  
175 without deepening, the Union has to be much more cautious about future  
176 enlargements.

177  
178 **[MOD-S: DELETE NEXT SENTENCE]** Any future enlargement has to take into  
179 account the EU’s ability to absorb new members. The EPP has played a significant role  
180 in the successful enlargement of the European Union. Its diligent work has also led to  
181 increased security and an economic dynamism. In the Treaty on the European Union,  
182 it is stated that any European state which respects its principles may apply to become  
183 a member of the European Union. Candidate countries have to fulfill the Copenhagen  
184 criteria, which define the conditions for admission, and the obligations undertaken in  
185 the accession partnership, and to implement them strictly. European neighbouring  
186 countries, which cannot or do not want to become full Members of the European  
187 Union, should be offered an especially close partnership with the EU, including  
188 multilateral solutions.

189 By the means of an especially close partnership, a common economic area could be  
190 created to the benefit of both the countries concerned and the EU itself. However, it  
191 should be more than a "European Economic Area". It should include close political  
192 consultation, especially in the areas of Justice and Home Affairs (border control,  
193 cooperation in juridical affairs, the protection of human rights, exchange of information  
194 about human trafficking and drugs), as well as Foreign and Security Policy (especially  
195 the common fight against terrorism) and respect of the external borders of the Union.  
196 The EU should encourage these states to commit themselves to stronger regional  
197 cooperation amongst themselves. This would enable Europe to strengthen peace and  
198 stability as well as economic prosperity, throughout the continent, by alternative  
199 means to membership.

200  
201 The EU also needs a neighbourhood policy for the countries of the Mediterranean and  
202 those in the east of our continent, enhancing cooperation especially in the fields of the  
203 fight against terrorism, management of migration flows, human trafficking, and border  
204 controls. The neighbourhood policy should aim at creating and extending a common  
205 area of peace, stability, security, respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law  
206 and prosperity. Therefore, this policy should refrain from a uniform approach towards  
207 all its neighbours but, rather, to devise diverse incentives and obligations for each  
208 individual state. This should also include a European perspective for European  
209 neighbouring countries. In the future, the EU should expand its contribution to develop  
210 democracy and defend human rights in neighbouring countries. Every democratic  
211 improvement in these countries should be strongly supported.

212  
213 The Barcelona Process is a unique and ambitious initiative, which laid the foundations  
214 for a new regional relationship and which represents a turning-point in Euro-  
215 Mediterranean relations. Unfortunately, ten years later the main objectives have not  
216 been achieved. It is necessary to relaunch the goals of Barcelona, in order to establish  
217 a common area of peace, stability and prosperity.

218 **3. Clear Priorities, Better Legislation, Less Bureaucracy**

219  
220  
221 First Priority: Creating a more innovative **[FIDESZ-HU+ÖVP-AT+PO-PL: ADD “and**  
222 **cohesive”]** Europe for more growth and jobs

223  
224 In a time of accelerated globalization, the citizens expect Europe to help them take  
225 advantage of the opportunities provided and to protect them against the dangers  
226 incurred. Facing global competition, Europe must openly welcome its youth, its  
227 creative individuals, its inventors, its companies, and it must again become a favoured  
228 location for all new job-creating activities. Analyzing the surveys carried out regularly  
229 by the European Union, it is clear that the main concern of citizens is the economic  
230 situation in Europe and the high unemployment in many Member States. The  
231 European Union can contribute to the creation of more jobs by establishing a proper  
232 economic framework, favourable to more employment.

233  
234 First of all, it is necessary to consolidate a sound and stable macroeconomic  
235 environment, in order to increase entrepreneurial and consumer confidence. These  
236 are both essential requirements for higher growth and more employment.

237  
238 Secondly, a solid monetary policy, which tightly monitors the various factors that  
239 intervene in long-term price stability, is essential. By keeping inflation low, it is no  
240 longer necessary to raise interest rates which can very seriously affect growth rates in  
241 Europe.

242  
243 The third component is continuing with structural reforms in product, capital and  
244 labour markets: ensuring effective competition and completing the internal market,  
245 especially in services; achieving the full integration of the financial sector; taking  
246 measures to increase the employment rate, especially in those population groups  
247 where we are in disadvantage with other economic areas in the World: older workers,  
248 young people and women in general. In order to prevent an ageing society, it will also  
249 be necessary to strengthen the compatibility of work and family life.

250  
251 Finally, we have to focus on establishing direct and concrete measures which  
252 encourage business creation. These measures include easing the administrative  
253 burden on start-ups, simplifying the regulatory environment, reducing the general level  
254 of taxation, improving access for SMEs to sources of finance, particularly risk capital,  
255 and promoting a more entrepreneurial culture.

256  
257 The creation of the single market - although not fully completed - and a stable  
258 Economic and Monetary Union, have been huge successes in this regard. The  
259 exchange of goods has created enormous opportunities for companies and created  
260 more employment all over the European Union. Now we have to commit ourselves to  
261 complete the single market, taking also into account the social dimension of that  
262 market, and to introduce the Euro in the new Member States, once they have fulfilled  
263 the stability criteria of the Maastricht Treaty, in order to continue this success.

264  
265 We believe that the opening-up of the services sector is an important factor for the  
266 completion of the Single Market and that **[FIDESZ-HU: REPLACE END OF**  
267 **PARAGRAPH BY “a Services Directive will have a strong, positive impact on**  
268 **job creation, as it increases economic dynamism and contributes to the**



269 **growth of the underdeveloped services market in Europe.”]** the Services  
270 Directive, as adopted by the European Parliament, will have a strong, positive impact  
271 on job creation, as it increases economic dynamism and contributes to the growth of  
272 the underdeveloped services market in Europe. The EPP asks the Council and the  
273 Commission to adopt this position as a basis for the final decision.

274  
275 It will be necessary to improve the realization of the principle of free movement for  
276 workers, as laid down in the Treaty on the European Community while respecting the  
277 competences of the EU Member States.

278  
279 In a globalizing world, only if we allocate more funds on research and development  
280 will the Member States of the EU continue to safeguard social cohesion and strengthen  
281 economic growth. In addition to this, we need a more innovation-friendly environment  
282 in Europe – this means less bureaucracy, more flexibility and more cross-border  
283 cooperation in the field of research and development. We must ensure enhanced  
284 financial support for our universities and centres of excellence throughout the Union.  
285 Education is a life-long process, learned both inside and outside of established  
286 educational institutions, and our approach must be one of life-long growth and  
287 development over the different stages of one’s life. The EPP is convinced that our  
288 future position in the global market will depend, to a large extent, on our capacity to  
289 innovate. Therefore, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing investments  
290 into this field of activities must be at the centre of all our policies carried out at  
291 European level.

292  
293 Our success in innovation will largely depend on establishing a European Higher  
294 Education Area and strengthen the overall quality of our education systems. Effective  
295 R&D can only be carried out by qualified researchers that are given the possibility to  
296 apply their expertise. The continuous 'brain drain' towards our main competitors on  
297 the world markets can be stopped, by improving the attractiveness and quality of our  
298 own higher education institutions.

299  
300 Solidarity and social, economic and territorial cohesion are important objectives of  
301 European integration. The success of the whole project depends on the support of all  
302 the EU citizens. This support will be generated only if we curb the gap between the  
303 different Member States and regions of the European Union. Having very large  
304 economic differences among the Member States and regions of Europe and poor  
305 infrastructural links between them, will be a clear obstacle to growth and  
306 development. To successfully address these challenges, the enlarged Europe needs to  
307 continue an efficient cohesion policy, which should be seen as a practical embodiment  
308 of the principle of solidarity.

309  
310 In the past decades, some of our nations and the European Union as a whole became  
311 too regulated and protective in many areas. This over-regulation - as is proved by  
312 many economic studies - undermines competitiveness and costs jobs. We must ensure  
313 that future regulations are thoroughly examined before entering into force, in order to  
314 determine their impact on industry, particularly on small and medium enterprises, and  
315 on new businesses. For us, the highest priority is a more effective implementation of  
316 the four basic freedoms (freedom of movement of people, goods, capital and services)  
317 as well as the creation of economic growth and new jobs which are highly competitive  
318 on global markets and which allow citizens a decent standard of living. We have to  
319 strengthen our efforts to improve the quality and the effectiveness of EU education

320 and training systems and to create not only a highly skilled and motivated workforce,  
321 **[PP-ES: CHANGE END OF SENTENCE “in the European Union, including rural**  
322 **areas, which still represent 80 per cent of EU territory. In this context, it is**  
323 **important to reinforce common legislation in order to preserve traditional**  
324 **activities and to promote diversification, when necessary. For the next**  
325 **financial period, rural areas need to be supported within a framework of**  
326 **budget stability.”]** but also to promote knowledge and skills, enabling citizens to  
327 participate in the democratic society in terms of citizenship and sense of responsibility.  
328

329 We have to, in general, increase the employment rate in Europe, including the  
330 employment rate of women. The respect of appropriate social protection and of social  
331 rights contributes to highly motivated and productive employees. Having big  
332 differences concerning the distribution of wealth can become a major obstacle in the  
333 process of unification and economic development. We should contribute to the fight  
334 against poverty and social exclusion as well as to curb the gap between rich and poor  
335 groups in our societies. It is essential to fully integrate Europe's ethnic minorities, such  
336 as the Roma, into society.

337  
338 **[PP-ES: ADD “We regret any cuts in the Rural Development policy, which**  
339 **could speed depopulation and desertification. The financing package agreed**  
340 **for this policy is not enough to apply properly the new measures included in**  
341 **the modified Rural Development legislation. We ask the European Union to**  
342 **engage in an in-depth reflection on the revision of the financing needs**  
343 **identified in this chapter.”]**  
344

345 The European Social Model is rooted in Christian-Social thought and based on  
346 performance and social justice, competition and solidarity, personal responsibility and  
347 social security. These remain relevant in conditions of globalized markets and rapid  
348 changes in economic life. The challenge is to combine powerful new market forces  
349 with economic dynamism, humanity and social responsibility.  
350

351 The so-called “Lisbon strategy” with its three pillars (economic, social and  
352 environmental) finally has to be taken seriously by the Member States, and the  
353 necessary and swift steps should be taken to make Europe more competitive and to  
354 create a real knowledge-based society. Only if we accept the interdependence  
355 between the ‘preconditions for more employment’ and ‘high social standards,’ we will  
356 be able to safeguard social cohesion. We also have to promote mobility through  
357 investment in education and training, and notably in linguistic skills. The problems  
358 arising from demographic change and an ageing population can only be tackled if  
359 measures are introduced for promoting possibilities to reconcile family and professional  
360 life.  
361

362 In numerous Member States there is still considerable resistance against many social  
363 system and labour market reforms. It has clearly been shown that those states, which  
364 tackled reforms early on, are visibly in a better position than those unwilling to reform.  
365 Our challenge is to create a sense of understanding, urgency and enthusiasm for the  
366 Lisbon Agenda.  
367

368 But the European institutions have also to be more serious and consequent in regard  
369 to this priority, in all areas of legislation and action. Full compliance with the Stability  
370 and Growth Pact is important for the credibility of the European Union. We ask the

371 European Commission to undertake an independent Impact Assessment for all new  
372 legislative proposals, with special attention to their impact on SMEs. The same should  
373 be foreseen in the other institutions when proposals are amended. The Member States  
374 and regions should be consulted in the process of Impact Assessment at an early  
375 stage, due to their important role in the implementation of EU law. We welcome the  
376 initiative of the European Commission to also screen old proposals, which are still in  
377 the legislative process and to withdraw them if they would have negative effects on  
378 growth **[EUCDW: CHANGE INTO “, employment and social cohesion”]** and  
379 employment. We also welcome the initiative of the Commission to screen the 90,000  
380 pages of the *acquis communautaire* for the purpose of reducing them by about a third.  
381 Less and better regulation has to be a top priority at the European level **[EUCDW:**  
382 **ADD “if we are serious about fighting unemployment; the rules should**  
383 **enable open markets which guarantee fair competition and the protection of**  
384 **employees against arbitrary actions by their employers.”]**  
385

386 **Second Priority: Protecting Europe's Citizens**

387  
388  
389 Our values are threatened by those who want to take advantage of our freedoms. The  
390 dreadful terrorist attacks in Madrid and London grossly illustrated that European  
391 citizens have become targets of terrorism. The security of our citizens is a priority for  
392 the EPP. We have encouraged the United Nations and the European Union to establish  
393 the appropriate mechanisms to ensure the identification and protection of potential  
394 victims of terrorist attacks, which is one of our highest priorities in this field. Also,  
395 other actions have been taken; the EPP has promoted actions such as the European  
396 Arrest Warrant, a common definition of terrorism, the creation of a public list of  
397 terrorist organizations and individuals, improved of co-operation of our different  
398 criminal justice systems and the exchange of information (Schengen Information  
399 System, Visa Information System and the exchange of fingerprints), among many  
400 other achievements. Nonetheless, further steps need to be taken in order to  
401 strengthen our security. Mutual trust between the law enforcement authorities of  
402 Member States, as well as a clear definition of our objectives, is therefore essential.

403  
404 Extremism and terrorism must be fought decisively. Our free societies cannot accept  
405 the idea that terrorists should be paid a political price for giving up their criminal  
406 activities. In a long term strategy, we must be careful not to give in to fear, hate and  
407 violence - and to strengthen cooperation and solidarity with the moderate voices of  
408 different cultures. Today as always, the EPP reaffirms its commitment to work for the  
409 unity and solidarity of the Member States of the European Union, facing any possible  
410 threat intended to undermine freedom. Freedom of expression and religious freedom  
411 are fundamental pillars of democracy and their only limitation must be based on  
412 personal responsibility and law. The internal security risks in Europe and the fight  
413 against terrorism need to be dealt with on a European level. A European Union without  
414 internal borders will only be able to tackle the terrorist threat efficiently by combining  
415 our efforts and exchanging knowledge and information in an efficient and coordinated  
416 manner. In this work, we must never infringe civil liberties.

417  
418 By opening the borders between the Member States for people, goods, services and  
419 information, we have created one of the freest societies in the world. But freedom is  
420 empty without responsibility and security. Therefore, we have to ensure that the new  
421 external borders of the Union are optimally protected and legally finalized, relying  
422 more on CFSP. The European Union has to strengthen cooperation in the areas of  
423 police and justice and activate a common action plan. EUROPOL and EUROJUST, as  
424 well as cooperation between intelligence services, especially those of the EU Member  
425 States and the US, have a key role to play. In particular, acute international criminality  
426 must also be dealt with at the European level. The close cooperation between Union  
427 police services and with Europol, is the only way to fight human trafficking, money  
428 laundering and drug trafficking.

429  
430 **[PP-ES+EPP-ED: ADD "In order to fight terrorism efficiently we first need to**  
431 **identify the threats and fight them effectively. A long-term European Global**  
432 **Strategy is, therefore, needed."]**

433

434 **Third Priority: Strengthening Europe's role in the World**

435  
436 At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the world is threatened by terrorism, weapons of  
437 mass destruction, regional conflicts, failed states, hunger and diseases. The European  
438 Union must therefore develop and implement its Security Strategy, which relies on  
439 prevention, and civil and military crisis management.

440  
441 Moreover we face a profound challenge of social disorder and injustice when more  
442 than one billion people worldwide are still living in absolute poverty. All nations are  
443 called upon to help tackle these deep-rooted inequalities. Undoubtedly, Europe has a  
444 major influence on the global framework conditions, such as trade regulations and  
445 financial mechanisms for development. Therefore, we want Europe to face up to its  
446 global responsibility, to speak with one voice and act together.

447  
448 The strengthening of the Common Foreign and Security Policy as well as the Security  
449 and Defence Policy, complementary to the Transatlantic Alliance, and also the active  
450 and concerted defence of Human Rights in international relations, will be crucial for  
451 the further development of the European Union. In this respect, we welcome the  
452 development of the European rapid reaction force decided in Helsinki, the first  
453 interventions of the military units in FYROM and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the civil missions  
454 – such as those in Aceh and Gaza - and the creation of the European Defence Agency.  
455 We are strongly committed to the implementation of the solidarity clause and the  
456 security guarantees, in the framework of structural cooperation, foreseen in the draft  
457 Constitutional Treaty.

458  
459 The EU must develop an action plan to put its European Security Strategy (ESS) into  
460 practice, and to strengthen the authority of international law, effective multilateralism  
461 and international bodies, such as the United Nations, the International Criminal Court,  
462 the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank. The close cooperation with our transatlantic  
463 partners - with whom we share common values and interests - is the only way we can  
464 solve global problems. A new WTO agreement is necessary to stimulate economic  
465 growth and to contribute to the creation of more jobs, provided it respects human  
466 rights and especially the recognized standards of the International Labour  
467 Organization. In particular, it is important to provide developing countries with fairer  
468 opportunities in global markets.

469  
470 European integration is a model for the peaceful and future-oriented cooperation  
471 between nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century - the first experience of self-limitation of  
472 sovereignty for the purpose of peace. We should support regional cooperation  
473 throughout the world in order to overcome long-standing conflicts and enhance peace.  
474 A genuine and durable idea of peace can only be fulfilled if, besides the strong fight  
475 against terrorism and extremism, we promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue.  
476 Peace, development, human rights, dialogue and interdependence among people and  
477 civilizations in a globalized world are the best way to overcome conflicts in the long-  
478 term. Europe, being the biggest donor worldwide of both development and  
479 humanitarian aid, should play - and should be seen to be playing - a leading role in the  
480 field of development and humanitarian aid action. We are firmly committed to  
481 solidarity on the international level, to the achievement of the Millennium Development  
482 Goals, to a stronger partnership between Europe and the developing world, and to the  
483 promotion of human rights, democracy and good governance. The EPP believes that  
484 there is an urgent need to halt the spread of poverty in the world, to fight against

485 stigmatization and discrimination, to combat major diseases, and to reaffirm the  
486 importance of maintaining the Union's commitments for achieving the Millennium  
487 Development Goals, including meeting the targets for overseas development aid.

488  
489 We have the ultimate goal of promoting peace, stability, democracy, prosperity, good  
490 governance (particularly by combating corruption) and respect for human rights in all  
491 countries and, in this respect, we recommend the strengthening of political dialogue  
492 with all regions. This will also be crucial in order to deal with the increasing pressure  
493 of immigration in the Southern and Eastern borders of the European Union. The  
494 consolidation of the European Neighbourhood Policy is also of strategic importance for  
495 achieving these objectives.

496

497 **[KDH-SK: ADD "Fourth priority: Human dignity implemented in everyday life**  
498  
499 **Practices that violate the human dignity - such as destroying embryos for**  
500 **embryonic stem cells research, cloning, abortion, euthanasia, psychological**  
501 **manipulation, etc. - and which are illegal in at least one Member State,**  
502 **shall not be financed by community funds."]**  
503

504 **[KDH-SK: ADD "The EPP will support the drafting of new legislative**  
505 **proposals on ethical guidelines for Community-based activities in particular**  
506 **areas. Introducing these commonly accepted guidelines should forward the**  
507 **unity of Europe and the common good."]**  
508

#### 509

#### 510 **Fourth Priority: Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment**

#### 511

512 The concept of sustainable development aims to improve the life of citizens in the  
513 European Union. Europe needs to strengthen the link between protection of the  
514 environment and a competitive economy through realistic and flexible legislation, the  
515 subsidiarity principle and confidence in private initiative.

516  
517 Combating climate change is of utmost importance and should lead to the promotion  
518 of carbon-free energy sources at the European level. The preservation of the Union's  
519 biodiversity and water resources is our responsibility for future generations; legislation  
520 in the field of noise, waste, air quality, soil protection and chemicals will contribute  
521 effectively to improving the urban environment and public health. A more sustainable  
522 transport policy will be achieved by completing the Trans-European Networks,  
523 preventing congestion, enhancing inter-modality and promoting cleaner, safer and  
524 more competitive modes of transport.

525  
526 The recent natural catastrophes around the world and the rise in oil and gas prices  
527 show the need to reinforce cooperation in the areas of environmental protection and  
528 energy policy especially in the field of energy efficiency, energy saving and non-CO2  
529 emitting energy sources. This is essential, not only because the protection of the  
530 environment cannot be done by individual states alone, but also because of the rise in  
531 energy prices, which has affected the economic situation of the entire European Union.  
532 This is why the EPP is firmly in favour of a cleaner environment and sustainable  
533 development. The protection of the environment also involves our historic and natural  
534 heritage and this requires immediate action; a common approach towards a more  
535 sustainable policy, by developing a European action plan. A European energy policy  
536 strategy and the creation of a Single European Space for Energy, will help energy  
537 supply and energy independence, in particular for investing in non-CO2 emitting  
538 energy sources **[FI-I: ADD "such as nuclear and other renewables"]**.

539  
540 The recent gas crisis between Russia and its neighbours and the rise in oil and natural  
541 gas prices, call for a common European response to common energy challenges.  
542 Security of energy supply requires a sizeable effort on research, more diversification of  
543 energy sources, a common political position towards external suppliers, and a  
544 mechanism of solidarity between Member States in the event of a crisis.

545  
546  
547 **[UMP-F+EPP-ED: ADD "The policies and actions so proposed require an**

548 adequate level of community financing. This level will only be met under  
549 two conditions: the allocation of new own resources to the Union, which do  
550 not bear upon the national budgets; and, the application of the principle of  
551 constancy, according to which the conveyance of a competence to the Union  
552 must be assured at a constant global cost and maintain constant the  
553 taxation burden for the tax payer.”]

554

555

556 [EUCDW: ADD

557 “Fifth Priority: Protecting Social Cohesion

558

559 The European Union too often is reduced to the idea of a “Single Market”.  
560 Our idea of peaceful cooperation of people also includes the principle of  
561 social cohesion within our societies. Therefore the EPP supports the  
562 approach that the EU, in its concrete political measures, respects workers’  
563 rights and enforces minimum social standards in all its regulations,  
564 especially those which concern economic, employment or social policies.  
565 While respecting the competences of the Member States in those areas, the  
566 European Union should encourage the coordination of their policies which  
567 could lead to mutual benefit.]

568

569



570 **4. A more transparent Europe capable of Action**

571

572

573 **More Democracy and functioning Institutions**

574

575 The ongoing process of European integration demands the strengthening of  
576 democratic participation in the European decision-making process. Democratic  
577 procedures need to be applied in those areas where the Member States have  
578 conferred competences to the EU. The newly enlarged Union has put greater pressure  
579 on the current institutional structure and decision-making procedures. Interests are  
580 more diverse, discussions need more time and decisions become increasingly difficult.  
581 Some of the current institutional arrangements of the Nice Treaty are, from our point  
582 of view, insufficient for the proper functioning of the enlarged Union. The majority of  
583 citizens is clearly in favour of a more transparent and democratic Europe. But currently  
584 its decisions are often perceived as very distant and not fully democratic and  
585 accountable. Ironically, the Constitutional Treaty addresses many of these  
586 shortcomings and offers considerable improvements.

587

588 The political problems and institutional weaknesses that the Convention was set up to  
589 address will persist and grow – unless and until the reforms enshrined in the Treaty  
590 establishing a Constitution for Europe are brought into force. This can only be  
591 achieved successfully if the will and the concerns of the citizens are taken seriously.

592

593 **[CDA-NL: DELETE NEXT SENTENCE AND ADD “The EPP confirms its**  
594 **commitment to achieving without undue delay a constitutional settlement**  
595 **which strengthens parliamentary democracy, transparency and the rule of**  
596 **law, anchors fundamental rights, develops citizenship, and enhances the**  
597 **capacity of the enlarged Union to act effectively at home and abroad.**  
598 **Without such a constitutional settlement, we fear it will not be possible for**  
599 **the Union to expect the support of its citizens, to maintain the momentum**  
600 **of integration and to become a credible partner in world affairs.”]** Therefore

601 the EPP proposes that the process leading to the ratification of a European  
602 Constitutional Treaty should be continued after the period of reflection, taking full  
603 account of the outcome of this period. New impetus should be given by the European  
604 Council in the first half of 2007 at latest. We call on the governments of the EU  
605 Member States to involve their national parliaments in the European legislative process  
606 at an early stage. In order to ensure that the EU institutions abide by the principle of  
607 subsidiarity, the Constitutional Treaty establishes an early warning system and a right  
608 of action against the EU institutions, constituting an efficient instrument to fight  
609 bureaucracy and red tape. In this prospect, it is also absolutely necessary to reinforce  
610 the links between the European institutions and the national parliaments and between  
611 the national parliaments themselves.

612

613 The reforms foreseen in the Constitutional Treaty – which were the result of a broad  
614 consensus between the representatives of Member States, National Parliaments, the  
615 European Parliament and the European Commission in the Convention - need to be  
616 implemented. An institutionally paralyzed Union would contribute to the scepticism of  
617 citizens towards the European Union in general. **[PP-ES: ADD “The EPP believes**  
618 **that any attempt to enforce the Constitutional Treaty by installments would**  
619 **be a fraud not only to the Dutch and French electorate but to all European**  
620 **citizens”]** The EPP always stressed the necessity of accompanying the enlargement

621 of the European Union with reforms for more democratic and transparent decision-  
622 making processes, and more simplified and flexible mechanisms that would keep the  
623 enlarged European Union capable of action.

624  
625 In January 2001, the EPP called for a Convention to elaborate a Constitutional Treaty  
626 for the EU. At the Estoril Congress of October 2002, the EPP presented its ideas for a  
627 “Constitution for a Strong Europe”. Many of these ideas became part of the Draft  
628 Treaty because the EPP played a major role within the Convention. Our ambition was  
629 to shape the new Constitutional Treaty for a more democratic, transparent and  
630 efficient Europe.

631  
632

### 633 **Transparency and Subsidiarity are key factors**

634  
635 The introduction of a new, more transparent voting system, an enhanced role of the  
636 European Parliament, as well as a “Minister of Foreign Affairs” and a President of the  
637 European Council, would increase the transparency of decisions taken at EU level,  
638 improve efficiency, and enhance Europe’s capabilities and image in world affairs.  
639 Moreover, the importance of the European elections – resulting in the designation of  
640 the President of the European Commission - is essential if we want to take the  
641 democratic rights of European voters more seriously. The Constitutional Treaty also  
642 introduced a clearer distribution of competences between the Union and its Member  
643 States, with an innovative supervisory power granted to National Parliaments, enabling  
644 them to guarantee the respect for the subsidiarity principle. With the early warning  
645 system, national Parliaments can safeguard the principle of subsidiarity in the decision-  
646 making process at the grass-roots level, and bring an action before the Court of  
647 Justice in case of a breach of this principle. In particular, we underline the importance  
648 and the function of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and its common values and  
649 citizens’ rights. Thus, if we want to increase public support for the European project,  
650 the implementation of all these elements must be facilitated.

651  
652

### 653 **Better Policies – comprehensible to the citizens**

654  
655 The communication policy and the public relations campaigns of the European  
656 institutions have delivered rather poor results. Future public information campaigns  
657 should be more focused and policy-oriented, and address the specific issues which our  
658 citizens expect to be solved by the European Union. An effective information and  
659 communication strategy must also actively demonstrate to citizens how belonging to  
660 the European Union benefits their daily lives. This can include the achievements  
661 already made by the EU affecting the everyday life of the people (e.g. increased  
662 mobility, lower telecommunication costs, lower flight prices, a common market and a  
663 single currency with greater choice and lower prices for all consumers, cross-border  
664 environmental protection, peace-keeping missions, democracy-building beyond the EU,  
665 transnational police cooperation, the concerted fight against terrorism, the promotion  
666 of student and youth exchanges, etc.).

667  
668 For the greater understanding and acceptance of European integration, we need clear  
669 results and effective policies on the European level, the reform of the European Union  
670 decision-making process, and improved transparency – these actions will be more  
671 effective than costly public campaigns. Besides mere communication, all EU institutions

672 should work out proposals for reforming their procedures, making them less  
673 bureaucratic and more accessible to the average citizen and the media.

674  
675 **[EPP-ED-GROUP: ADD "The EPP believes that the European dialogue will**  
676 **only overcome the constitutional crisis if it engages not only each EU**  
677 **institution but also national and regional parliaments, local government,**  
678 **political parties, social partners, civil society, the academic community and**  
679 **the media." ]**

680  
681 The EU institutions, in close partnership with the Member States, must ensure that  
682 rigorous budgetary discipline is enforced in the expenditure of Union funds, so that  
683 citizens can have confidence in the effectiveness, efficiency and "added value" of  
684 Union programs.

685  
686 The EPP is committed to making its own contribution to the process of bringing EU  
687 policies closer to the people. We are convinced that European political parties have the  
688 responsibility to play an active role, by contributing to the opinion-making process at  
689 European level and by expanding all forms of dialogue and debate with national  
690 parties and citizens. This will require vigorous efforts by the EPP, in close cooperation  
691 with its member parties. The EPP will re-orient the focus of its media strategy to the  
692 fundamental political issues dealt by the European institutions and make effective  
693 interventions for the benefit of Europeans. We expect our member parties to give  
694 much more prominence to the European dimension in both their internal debates and  
695 electoral campaigning.

696  
697 Moreover, the EPP will invite the European social partners and representatives of  
698 European civil society (consumer organizations, NGO's, human rights organizations,  
699 etc.) to explain the importance of European cooperation and integration to Europe's  
700 citizens. Only a coordinated and joint approach by political parties and the  
701 organizations of civil society will be able to reinforce public support for the European  
702 Union among the citizens of Europe.

703 **5. Conclusion – Committed to the European Idea**

704  
705  
706 Peace and reconciliation were the prime ideals of the founding fathers of Europe and  
707 of their heirs. They were chained by two wars that shattered the continent. The  
708 whole world was dragged along in this destruction. The human values of the Western  
709 civilization were hurt in its deepest core and millions of Europeans were subjected,  
710 after World War II, to Communist rule.

711  
712 Never again war! Finally, divergent interests and conflicts had to be peacefully  
713 resolved through consolidation and common decision-making in European institutions.  
714 This ideal developed into the biggest historical reform of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It sets an  
715 example for the entire world.

716  
717 The fathers of Europe already belong to history. Their heirs are certainly equally  
718 motivated to safeguard peace and promote reconciliation; but have never been  
719 confronted with the cruelty of war. Today they face totally new challenges and  
720 fundamental risks.

721  
722 Through globalization, our present world is merging into one. It is a dangerous  
723 illusion to believe that nation states alone are still able to confront this challenge and  
724 to secure the economy, well-being, culture and identity of the European peoples. Only  
725 when a new generation of leaders emerges, which are capable of convincing and  
726 committing their citizens to the European idea, will it be possible to assure the future  
727 of their people.

728  
729 Thanks to European integration, there has been peace, security and prosperity on our  
730 continent for more than half a century. Today, the European Union guarantees the  
731 consolidation of the young democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and the  
732 Balkans, and contributes to the economical revival of Western Europe. The diversity of  
733 languages, cultures and religions provides big opportunities for everyone's life. It is a  
734 permanent mission for European society.

735  
736 We want to make a contribution to this positive process and to seize the opportunities  
737 it offers. Most citizens, whether or not they adhere to a religion or church, are willing  
738 to cooperate, stand together and to commit themselves in a show of solidarity. The  
739 European People's Party makes, through this 'Manifesto', an open plea for their  
740 support and contribution forwarding order to fulfill our common goals.