

## REMARKS

### Introduction

Attac Vlaanderen thinks that the introduction does not address interlocutors outside our little circle (and which could be potential allies) because of being negativistic. In the future, any new Attac text☺ should start friendlier:

“The European Attacs consider the European Union as the essential structure for the peoples involved to build a democratic future for themselves and their children in a globalized world. Therefore we welcome every earnest initiative to get the European project our ancestors dreamt of, back on track. However, we consider the present form of the European Union ...” This input, on the one hand, came too late. On the other, there are still several Attacs who do not have a mandate to deem de European construction/integration as a good idea. In future discussions, we have to go back to the start and ask if and what for we want a European construction/integration.

### “Clear separation of the executive, legislative and judicial powers.”

This phrasing is not clear, but this is not a weakness, but a strength in the Danish understanding: We do have different positions on the exact way how to separate powers, but we agree on the principle that powers have to be separated. For all of us, it is unacceptable that the Commission has a monopoly on proposing laws.

As for the Council, some want to see it stronger and get the right to propose laws, others want to abolish it (it has an executive role on the national level and is a legislator at the EU level) and integrate it as a “regional” chamber in the Parliament. We have to continue the discussion about this.

Also, if the Commission is turned into a European government, or if other ways are found, is up to the democratic process.

### “The European Parliament must get the right to propose and CO-ADOPT legislation in all policy fields”

This formulation is open for different options:

- the Council is conserved and conserves its right to co-adopt laws
- national parliaments get the right to co-adopt EU legislation
- others

### “European citizenship”

Has a double meaning in English: a) civil rights; b) nationality.

We mean civil rights. The precondition for “European nationality” would be a “Federal State of Europe” which does not meet consensus at all at the moment.

### “economic justice” – proposal for definition

Economic justice is a result of distribution (of power, labour, and means of production).

Social justice is a result of *redistribution* (via taxes and social benefits).

### Transparency: Where is still the confidential principle?

The CT foresaw that the meetings of the Council should become public only where it is a (supranational) legislator (1st pillar).

But not the intergovernmental meetings where he just represents member states. This is e. g. the CFSP/PESC (external and security policy) and the PJCCM/CPJMP (police and judicial cooperation), also called the 2nd and 3rd pillar.

In a series of agenda reforms, parts of the council meetings are public; others are not. The Coreper seems to be still a blackbox.

“The independence of the EU from the NATO must be asserted.”

This does *not* mean that we want the NATO to continue existing.

The genesis of this demand was the following:

“Development of a common external policy, independent from the NATO.”

Several Attacs were against this demand because nothing would have guaranteed that the EU would not turn into a second global policeman and imperialistic block.

On the other hand, the “abolishment” of the NATO can’t be a demand for a European treaty. Therefore, what remained is the above formulation.

“race to the top”

Corridors are not perfectly defined only saying that richer countries must have higher standards and poorer countries lower standards. The concept of corridors also includes a dynamic to the top. This is partly implicit: if a poor country gets richer, it must elevate also its standards. But we should stress the dynamic that is intended. Maybe we also say that the Sandinavians could be an example for other countries: highest tax rates and highest share of social expenditure/GDP and, as a result, lowest poverty rate and highest equality, biggest public sector and highest gender equality.

European Social Charter

We put the Turin version from 1961 because it has been watered down in later versions.

Open for discussion:

European social model – what does it mean for us?

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- We are still unsolved difficult in the hybrid character of the European construction, for instance the principle of proceeding through treaties. And so the way to modify the treaties has not been dealt with (at the unanimity for the time being, which causes serious democratic questions).
- Participative democracy, if the appropriate precautions are not taken, could legitimate various forms of corporatism and lobbying which we want to avoid.

We think that these questions, and others, should be dealt with in the future, as is explicitly foreseen in the text (“...treated in a way that does not block further progress.”).