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Press release

A PHONEY UNION CANNOT BE REFORMED IT MUST BE FOUNDED ANEW

The result of the Irish referendum on the Lisbon treaty has drawn attention to a state of decision-making incapacity and confusion that was already all too clear to see. The fact that NO to a so unambitious European reformed treaty, that doesn't put into question any significant transfer of National sovereignty to the European level, has prevailed in a country which has so much benefitted from having been member of the European Community since 1973, confirms how far the political parties and leaders are from the public opinion and how dangerously they are playing dice with the future of Europe. In spite of its major achievements in several fields, the European Union has remained a phoney Union, whose reform is condemned to be characterised by reticence, ambiguity, unpopularity and indefinite procrastination. The endeavour to achieve continental unification, an endeavour that has allowed western Europe to enjoy more than half a century of peace and prosperity, is running a serious risk of failure.

Can it really be hoped that the current Union might carry off in the coming years all that it has failed to achieve to date? The answer is no.

Many of Europe's politicians, while their sights may not be set clearly on the objective of federal unity, nevertheless appreciate that the salvation of the continent depends on a radical strengthening of the Union's institutions. But as long as the reforms continue to be proposed in the current 27-member framework the declarations they make and the proposals they advance inevitably sound fanciful and propagandistic. It is now crucial for these politicians to realise that any project whose aim is the creation of a solid political union has now become impracticable in this setting. It is only by changing the framework that the relaunch of the process of the European political unification can start moving again, and become irreversible.

Responsibility for starting this new era, rests on Europe's six founder states and, among them, in particular to France and Germany.

It is up to them:

- to restart the process of building Europe outside the ambit of the existing Treaties, as these now offer no room for progress in a federal direction;
- to enter into a federal pact, through which those states willing to do so will transfer to Europe their sovereignty in the fields of defence and of foreign policy;
- to convene a constituent assembly, elected within the ambit of those countries that have entered into the pact, which will receive a mandate to draw up the Constitution of a European federal state that will remain open to all those countries subsequently wishing to join it, starting from those which have already adopted the euro.

June 13th, 2008

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