

THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION
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**Speech by Mr. Marco Follini, Representative of the Italian
Chamber of Deputies**

In the age of globalisation, in a world that is seeking new equilibria, Europe can never be the same again. Either there will be more Europe and a more united Europe, or there will be less Europe and a weaker Europe.

An enlarged Europe needs a more streamlined institutional architecture which is more closely tied to the Community method than to the painstaking mediation of diplomats and governments. And it needs a clear idea of its mission, and of the underlying rationale of its own unity.

I fully endorse the motto pronounced by the Spanish Presidency 'Más Europa' - more Europe. It is a good programme, a sound ambition. And it also sums up the whole purpose of this Convention.

More Europe means a Europe which is less bureaucratic and

which avoids becoming embroiled in the minutiae of over-detailed regulations. But above all it means more things shared in common, more shared sovereignty, and more responsibilities cultivated together.

A Europe organised around the principle of subsidiarity must, as far as possible, have its own common foreign, strategic and military policy. Europe must work together to manage crisis areas, and the newly-arising situations caused by the terrorist offensive, the massive influx of immigrants, and the communications revolution.

A Europe that stands on the geopolitical stage as a single player also needs to better coordinate its economic, financial and industrial policies - particularly since the adoption of the euro. From this point of view the liberalisation of the energy market, although taking place with some difficulty, is a positive step forward in the direction of implementing the principles that should underpin the work of this Convention.

Europe is an area of diversity, not of uniformity. And it is a territory in which pluralism has deep roots. No longer are there any outdated ideologies to divide us, but there are many contending ideas, even among ourselves, that continue

to fuel our debate.

The question facing us, and which is to some extent a question within ourselves, is whether there is a way of putting down in black and white, in the form of a constitutional treaty, the values that underlie Europe's identity, roots, and minimum intangible common denominator.

I have my own views about this, which are perhaps partisan opinions. But I believe that the political and spiritual identity of Europe is based on a sense of the limitations inherent to history, politics and public institutions vis-à-vis the freedom and dignity of the individual person and the autonomy of the intermediate players. And I believe that this limitation has a religious origin.

We will - if we are capable - have to try translating this root of our European identity and history into a formula which does not open up a religious or political controversy and which fully safeguards the secular nature of the institutions. It would be harmful to evade this issue - doubly harmful if it were to divide us.

Marco Follini