

**Intervention concerning the Future of the European Union
by Mr. Edmund Wittbrodt,
Representative of Polish Parliament to the EU Convention
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Mr. President,

Distinguish Members of the Convention, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Fifty years of European integration process has brought a new dimension to our common history. For the whole time the European Community has been remaining an area of stability and protected human rights. Through the **solidarity principle, which is one of the most important** for the process of our continent's unification, Europe could overcome political and economic borders, and – as I believe – will go on with that ever more in the future.

As Minister Joschka Fisher said, the current enlargement of the European Union is not only the next one in its history. That is a real unification of Europe. But expanding the number of Member States from 15 to 25 and then 27, requires broad structural reform. Today the European Union's citizens do not identify themselves with the Union. This is caused by the lack of legitimacy and transparency. **Europe must be closer to its citizens.**

In order to achieve the postulate above, one of the task we have to implement, is simplifying four existing treaties, and launching the new one, called Constitutional Treaty. Mentioned Treaty should consist of two separate parts:

- the first one including all basic elements of the European Union,
- and the second one, which is easier to change and make adjustments, with procedural and implementing items.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights should be added and included into the new Constitutional Treaty. All these acts will set a legal personality of the European Union.

While we think about simplifying existing Treaties, we have to take into account the new demands, which will be stood ahead of the European Union with 27 countries. Europe must clearly respond to new challenges, which emerged in international environment within last years – like globalisation – and skyrocketed after 11-th of

September 2001. What people expect from Europe, is just **economic stability and security in many dimensions**. Ensuring these two expectations requires:

- strengthening social and economic cohesion through maintaining solidarity principle in the enlarged Union,
- and enhancing the community method and better co-operation in second (Common Foreign and Security Policy) and third (Justice and Home Affairs) pillar of the European Union.

In this context, it is clear that if the European Union wants to play a key role in the globalised world, the decision making process must be quick, efficient and transparent both for the member states and European citizens. Alas, the situation is different now, because of many individual national interests and making politics off – stage. Therefore more precise delimitation of competencies between the European Union and its Member States, and also clear distinction between the Union's objectives and its powers defined by subject area, should take place. And in my opinion, in general, **more tasks should be given to the European Union**. All of this has to **reflect the principle of solidarity**.

Defining exclusive powers of the European Union we have to mention monetary and customs policy, external trade, foreign policy and financing the European Union budget.

In shared powers, where the Union establishes guidelines and Member States are responsible for transportation into domestic legislation, we can point out internal market, environment, agriculture, regional and social policy, energy, common defence and the third pillar (Justice and Home Affairs).

In above shared powers, we should also mention fields, where the European Union gives direction and co-ordinates policy, but measures are not enforceable, and national parliaments are involved. This is what Alain Lamassoure called political powers, and includes co-ordination of employment policy.

The area of supplementary powers, where the Union action only complements national actions, should include those like: education, sport, civil protection, culture, youth and tourism.

In the new Constitutional Treaty we should not point out exclusive powers of the Member States. These can be presumed when the Treaty does not define it.

In case of eventual contention between the European Union and its Member States on interpretation of Constitutional Treaty, we should recognise the Court of Justice as a constitutional court.

The expectations for the mission of European Union are that it will, for certain, be based on the **common shared values**.

In my opinion the possibility of further evolution of the European Union missions has to be foreseen, but in a longer period of time. Flexibility is needed for every institution. All decisions should be taken with a view on the challenges standing ahead of the European Union with 27 countries, and be based on the criteria of **efficiency and common interest**, which allow us to play the **key role as a global actor**.