

Working Group 11
Working document 4

Working group XI "Social Europe"

Subject : Contribution to the first three questions in the working group's mandate

by Jens-Peter Bonde, Member of the Convention

The European Union's internal market can best be described as a social market economy. However, social policy should be decided by the national parliaments, whereas the Member States should only use EU-recommendations as an instrument at the EU level in the field of social policy. The open method of coordination should not incrementally develop into supranational EU-law, but only give EU-recommendations on common minimum standards for protection. Thus, all countries have the possibility for having higher social policy standards than the common EU-recommendations.

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