

Working Group XI

Working Document 35

Working Group XI “Social Europe”

Subject: The system of transparency and accountability of the European social model

Members of Working Group XI on “Social Europe” will find hereafter a paper by
Mr. Adrian Severin, alternate member of the Convention.

Contribution for the Working Group on Social Europe submitted by

Mr. Adrian Severin, MP, (Romania),

Following our debate in the meeting of the Working Group on Social Europe, I would like to make some proposals concerning notably the **system of transparency and accountability of the European social model**.

We all agreed on the assumption that it is impossible to ignore the diversity of the social models in Europe; however one should also build a tissue of common standards as well as a set of common instruments in order to promote a certain European model which should add value to what it is done at the national level, thus providing a specific element of cohesion for the Union.

Within the Constitution /The Constitutional Treaty we should define values to identify a specific European model. Taking values as references we should then define the objectives of the social Europe, objectives which are changing in accordance with the overall progress/evolution of the Union and the world. In order to reach the objectives/goals one has to build and to provide himself with instruments (procedures and institutions) and has to define and implement policies. We cannot define policies in a constitutional text, but what we can do and we must do is to define a system of transparency and accountability of the European social model. We need guarantees for the enforcement of the values and objectives and this system of transparency and accountability could be perceived by the citizens as a guarantee. Therefore, this system of transparency and accountability could very well replace the lack of precision in the constitutional provisions about procedures and institutions, giving credibility to the constitutional statements concerning the values and the objectives.

Taking in account the above-mentioned considerations I would like to submit the following proposals:

1. A European Council for Social and Economic Security (ECSES) will be set up with the following competences:
 - a) It will watch the evolution of the economic and social matters,

processes and phenomena in the EU.

- b) It will make recommendations concerning the prevention or the management of the crisis in the social and economic field.
- c) It will watch the evolution of the social cohesion in the EU and it will propose the necessary measures in order to increase the level of the social inclusion.
- d) It will pursue the coordination of the European and national policies in the economic and social area.

The Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs will chair the ECSES without right of voting.

- 2. A European Social Forum (ESP) will be set up with the view to organize the social dialog at the European level and to guarantee transparency and accountability in the area of social policy of the EU, namely those dedicated to promote the European social model.
- 3. The ESP will be composed by the representatives of the main EU institutions (the Council, the Commission, the European Parliament), representatives of the trade unions and of the employers' organizations. The ESP is convened every three months in ordinary sessions and, at request of a quarter of its members, in extraordinary sessions.
- 4. The ESP will:
 - hear the reports of the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament concerning the progress in reaching the social goals of the EU and the implementation of the values of the European social model.
 - propose legislation (standards) relevant for the Social Europe.
 - propose and debate on policies which should lead to the increase of the employment and employability, to the guarantee of the equality of chances for social integration and to the improvement of the measures aimed to the social protection.
 - propose measures to coordinate the national policies as well as the EU and

national policies on the social matters.

5. The European Parliament will hear two times a year the reports of the Commission and the Council concerning the progress of the European social model and will adopt, subsequently to debates, the resolutions on the assessments and necessary recommendations.

In few days I am going to send you a broader written contribution which will sum up the oral suggestions I have formulated during our group's sessions.
