

CONV 555/03

CONTRIB 244

NOTE DE TRANSMISSION

du:	Secrétariat
à la:	Convention
Objet:	Contribution présentée par M ^{me} Hildegard Carola Puwak, membre de la Convention "Référence à la religion dans la Constitution européenne"

Le Secrétaire général de la Convention a reçu la contribution figurant en annexe de
M^{me} Hildegard Carola Puwak, membre de la Convention.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE RELIGIOUS REFERENCE IN THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

The representative of the Romanian Government, Hildegard Puwak, forwards to the members of the Convention on the future of Europe, the following contribution of the High Representatives of the Romanian Orthodox Church and of the Roman - Catholic Church of Romania, based on the discussions taken in Bucharest upon the proposals already made by Joachim Wuermeling and Elmar Brok, referring to the religious heritage in Europe.

“CONSCIOUS of their history and their common spiritual and moral heritage, of the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity, and of what Europe owes to its religious heritage, preponderantly Christian.”

Argumentation:

The Romanian people have emerged in history as a Christian people; Romanian Christianity of apostolic origin constituted a key element for spiritual and cultural unity and for progress. Romanian orthodoxy represents the only Latin orthodoxy, therefore bridging the East and the West, as his Sanctity, Pope John Paul the Second pointed out during his visit in Romania.

From a religious point of view, Romania looks like a mini Europe, based on the cohabitation of the Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, other Christian Churches and beliefs and other religions.

Maintaining its own spiritual identity, which was shaped during the history, Romania's contribution, next to those of other countries, will increase the value of the European spiritual and cultural thesaurus (The Declaration of the religious cults for Romania's accession to the EU, 2000).

To those mentioned above, we also add the following:

1. From a numerical/demographic point of view, the majority of Europe's population is Christian. Europe has Christian roots and a Christian identity.

2. The idea of a united Europe belonged to several Christian politicians: Adenauer,

Monet, De Gasperi and Spaak, that envisaged the creation of an economic community, the accomplishment of a cultural and political community primarily based on Christianity, the Greek and the Latin culture.

3. The Christian morale, based on the tradition of the Prophets and the Gospel as well as on the social and philanthropic works of the Church inspired the civil society ideals concerning the respect for human dignity, equality before God, fight for freedom of people and of persons, fight for social justice, social protection for the poor, the elders, the children, the sick and the foreigners. In Europe today, there are a lot of people that, even if they do not practice their belief anymore or have left the Church, still keep, in a secularized way, the humanist ideals inspired from the Judeo-Christian tradition.

4. For centuries, the European culture, in its diversity, from literature, art and music to names of places and streets, was inspired mostly from the Bible and from the Christian spirituality, Christian holy days, Saints, clergy and Christian laics, great missionaries like Saint Augustine in England, Saint Boniface in Germany, Saint Cyril and Method for the Slav people, reformers like Luther and Calvin, musicians like Beethoven and artists like Michelangelo, and many others.
