

CONV 607/03

CONTRIB 274

BEGELEIDENDE NOTA

van: het secretariaat

aan: de Conventie

Betreft: Bijdrage van leden van de Conventie:
"Initiatief om het Handvest van de grondrechten op te nemen in de Europese
grondwet"

De secretaris-generaal van de Conventie heeft de aangehechte bijdrage ontvangen van de leden van de Conventie die op bladzijde 3 worden vermeld.

**Initiative for the Incorporation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights
into the European Constitution**

The European integration process is rooted in the values, fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights is a unique expression of European identity. It is proof that the European Union is something far more than an economic community, that it is a community united by the shared values of the countries and peoples of Europe.

To the citizens of Europe the Charter is confirmation that in this integrating community to which they belong they have not only duties but also rights. Hence the Charter has a key role to play in helping Europe's citizens identify with the Union.

We therefore welcome the emerging consensus on the need to make the Charter an integral and legally binding part of the European constitution, without thereby conferring on the Union any new competences.

Given the fundamental nature of the Charter, its political impact is just as important as its legally binding status. Anyone looking up the European constitution expects to see his fundamental rights and freedoms spelt out right at the beginning. To tuck away the Charter in some protocol would be to deny its real worth and importance.

We therefore call for the entire Charter to be included in a prominent position in the text of the European Constitutional Treaty itself.

We call on all members of the Convention to endorse this initiative.

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