



**Comité européen de liaison
sur les Services d'intérêt général
European Liaison Committee
on Services of General Interest
Europäisches Verbindungskomitee
"Dienstleistungen von allgemeinem Interesse"**

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**to Mister Silvio Berlusconi
President of the European Union**

Mister President,

"The Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) which has just opened, should, at the end of its discussions, endorse the text for the first Constitution of the European Union. As a basis for its discussions, it has at its disposal a draft prepared by the Convention and which was submitted to you last July.

For European citizens, the way in which the social dimension is being handled is one of the weak points in the draft for the Constitution and which can and should be improved upon. However, the absence of ambitious objectives concerning Social Europe could jeopardize the rapprochement between the Union and its citizens.

On its part, CELSIG does not see how the IGC could come up with a text which is weaker than that proposed by the Convention without risking having the population turn completely away from Europe and reject that text.

This is why we are asking you to call upon the IGC to take up conclusions reached by the Convention's working group, Social Europe, adopted by the consensus of the group and endorsed by the Convention during its debates and, include them in the draft for the Constitution, in particular those concerning services of general interest, by including services of general interest in article 3 of the Constitution, in the objectives of the Union.

Further, it is appropriate to reinforce article III-6. Though the law specifies conditions for the operation of services of general economic interest (and possibly of services of general interest), reference made to article III-6 in article III-17 is not justifiable.

Best Regards

Secretariat of the CELSIG
P. Bauby, J-C. Boual et K. Varin.