



European Economic and Social Committee
Workers' Group

Brussels, 7th December 2011

RESOLUTION

NO MINOR PROCEDURE FOR MAJOR TREATY CHANGES

In the coming days, some important issues will be discussed at European level. The result of these meetings will have some extremely important consequences on the living conditions of European citizen.

The Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee believe this is an urgent need to deliver a clear message to EU institutions and Member States' leaders in this regard and recalls its statement of 22nd September 2011¹, entitled "Restoring confidence in the integration project of the European Union". Based on the fundamental principle of the European Union which is to preserve peace, values and well-being of the peoples of Europe, this statement sets out guidelines to be adopted and actions, particularly in terms of governance, cohesion, support for growth, employment and the real economy, the fight against speculation - including the taxation of financial transactions and the issuance of Eurobonds - and the involvement of citizens, including through respect for the European social model and collective bargaining.

We are firmly against the Merkel-Sarkozy's proposals related only to a strengthening of the Stability and Growth Pact in the Lisbon Treaty.

In fact,

- 1) in order to stop the attacks against the euro zone, priority is to be given to the political will to regulate markets, the establishment of a true harmonization of economic, fiscal and social policies as well as the equalization in the sense of progress of citizens' living and working conditions;
- 2) economic governance must be characterized by fiscal discipline but also by a strategy for growth. The European Central Bank will assume the role of ultimate guarantor of sovereign debts, support investment, growth and employment. The latter should also be ensured through the creation of an independent European rating agency;
- 3) any modification of the treaty should include a social protocol, a concrete pillar for growth, together with new measures to strengthen the implementation of the horizontal social clause. It should also ensure concrete and immediate compliance with the Charter of fundamental rights in all Member States;
- 4) we urge the European and National Parliaments to insist on respecting the democratic and transparent procedure, as already foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty, namely the call for a European convention;
- 5) National Governments and EU institutions need to rebuild a climate of public confidence and trust and to fight against nationalism and antieuropeanism.

¹ <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.group-2-group-statements&itemCode=19877>