

ERC NEWSLETTER 01/NOV 28, 2002

Dear friends,  
this is the first official ERC-newsletter which will be published on a regularly basis.

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EUROPEAN REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN (ERC)...  
WHAT DO WE WANT?

- 1) that an EU Constitution or Constitutional Treaty must be submitted to the citizens in a European referendum in all the countries concerned.
- 2) that the Parliaments of the states concerned make the appropriate legal and constitutional provisions for a binding referendum.
- 3) that the EU Constitution or Constitutional Treaty can only be adopted in the countries in which a majority votes in favour of it.
- 4) that the referendum take place simultaneously with the European elections in 2004.

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AND HERE ARE THE NEWS:

- 1.) Conference in Bratislava
- 2.) Activities in several countries
- 3.) FAQ concerning the ERC
- 4.) Alternative Summit in Copenhagen
- 5.) Download section of materials
- 6.) Statement of Iñigo Méndez de Vigo,  
member of the Convention Presidium
- 7.) Planed next steps

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#### 1.) CONFERENCE IN BRATISLAVA

The 3rd NDDIE conference with the main topic of ERC was held in Bratislava, Nov 15-17, 2002 It was a very interesting meeting of about 80 individuals from 22 countries representing many organisations and networks. The ERC was presented, discussed and several workshops and seminars were held.

Read a short summary here:

<http://european-referendum.org/up/up6.html>

Read the press release here:

<http://www.european-referendum.org/up/up6a.html>

See the photos here:

[http://www.geocities.com/aungiira/photos\\_nddie\\_bratislava\\_nov02.html](http://www.geocities.com/aungiira/photos_nddie_bratislava_nov02.html)

Read the EU-Observer coverage here:

<http://www.EUobserver.com/index.phtml?aid=8409>

See the agenda here:

<http://www.european-referendum.org/materials/di/Agenda-Bratislava.pdf>

A conference reader will be available soon!

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## 2.) ACTIVITIES IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

Since Bratislava there are dedicated activists building up an ERC network, starting media work in their countries, translated the ERC-materials into their languages. Contacts are:

+++ BELGIUM - Bert Penninckx (Dutch speaking)

<mailto:bert.penninckx@planetinternet.be>

and Fred Six (French speaking) <mailto:fred.six@pi.be>

+++ CZECH REPUBLIC - Dr. Milan Valach <mailto:Valach@iol.cz>

+++ DENMARK - a new group called "Europa's stemmer"

was founded to run the campaign in Denmark.

Contact: Nicolas E. Fischer <mailto:fischer@zetnet.dk>

+++ GERMANY - Ronald Pabst <mailto:pabst@european-referendum.org>

+++ NETHERLANDS - Arjen Nijeboer

<mailto:arjen.nijeboer@referendumplatform.nl>

and Filia den Hollander <mailto:fkdh@xs4all.nl>

+++ ROMANIA - Vicky Popescu <mailto:vickypopescu@yahoo.com>

+++ SPAIN - Susana del Rio <mailto:susanadelrio@wanadoo.es>

+++ SLOVAKIA - Dr. Miloslav Hettes <mailto:agora@nexta.sk>

+++ FRANCE - some new media partners

+++ GREAT BRITAIN - first concrete contacts to a huge movement

--- We hope that very soon dedicated and active contact persons and organisations will join.

--- Right now the postcards are translated into Czech/Slovak, German, English, French, Spanish, Romanian.... WE WANT TO PRINT THEM IN AS MANY LANGUAGES AS POSSIBLE!

--- Until March 2003 we want to have active NETWORKING groups in 10 European countries.

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## 3.) FAQ CONCERNING THE ERC

To avoid misunderstandings and to answer open questions in the framework of the campaign we introduced a Frequently Asked Question section which will be constantly expanded. See:

<http://www.european-referendum.org/up/up7.html>

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#### 4.) ALTERNATIVE SUMMIT IN COPENHAGEN

<http://www.ngoforum2002.dk/>

In the framework of the Intergovernmental Conference, mid-December there will be a bunch of alternative activities in Copenhagen where we will present the campaign in cooperation with our Danish partners:

- International youth meeting
- Alternative Summit of June movement
- NGO Forum with workshop and stand

If you will be there please contact us BEFOREHAND so that we can make an appointment. We are also interested to give further workshops, lectures or meetings with journalists. And if there should be some PRO EU events I would be glad to speak there too!

Please <mailto:rupp@democracy-international.info>

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#### 5.) DOWNLOAD SECTION OF MATERIALS

On the ERC-Homepage we have a lot of downloads concerning the campaign: ERC-folder, ERC-postcard, ERC-presentation, Voices of Europe, Country Report (both IRI-Europe), Mehr Demokratie proposals for direct democracy in the EU, Declaration of Laeken, cucumber regulation. See:

<http://www.european-referendum.org/en/erc6.html>

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#### 6.) STATEMENT OF IÑIGO MÉNDEZ DE VIGO

The member of the Convention Presidium and president of the EP-Delegation in the convention made a statement which corresponds very much with our appeal! What he said you'll find here:

<http://www.european-referendum.org/up/up8.html>

(Sorry for the bad English translation. Will be corrected as soon as possible!!)

Like in the previous months we will go on with some systematical lobbying of the Convention members!

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#### 7.) PLANED NEXT STEPS

We are a little bit behind our schedule of setting up the campaign. By end of this year it will be possible to do some concrete action for individuals on the ERC-Homepage, e.g.:

+++ You could write a letter to all presidents of the national parliaments to demand the possibility of binding referenda in all their countries.

+++ You could write a letter to all heads of states to open the way for a Europe-wide referendum to be held in all countries in 2004  
+++ You could sign our ERC Appeal as an individual  
+++ You could send a e-postcard to a friend to inform him/her about the campaign.  
+++ There will be a tool-kit with all information about the convention-members ... etc.  
But these options and possibilities have to be discussed in the coordinative circle of democracy-international!

More to come in about two weeks....

All the best

Thomas Rupp Heiko Dittmer Roland Pabst