

Newsletter: Plan D = Dictate?

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1) PLAN D = DICTATE ?

After the referendums in the Netherlands and France the process to ratify the European Constitution has suffered a serious setback.

The crisis is caused by the lack of democracy in the European Integration process.

According to the governments, a phase of debate is now necessary. This is called Plan D (D like 'discussion' or 'democracy').

The constitution should be debated with the citizens. At the same time it is emphasised, that no part of the constitution must be changed.

But in a debate both sides should listen to each other and find an agreement.

Otherwise, the Plan D stands for dictate.

From our point of view it is necessary to restart the convention process. Two fundamental changes have to be made in comparison to the first attempt. a) The members should be elected. b) The revised constitution should be approved by referendums in all 25 member states. These referendums should be held simultaneously on the same day.

2) FUTURE OF THE REFERENDUMS

During the last EU summit the head of states have decided to interrupt the ratification process. What does this mean for the seven referendums planned? Please find our actual overview here:

democracy-international.org/afterthesummit.html

We also offer a report on the current situation in the Czech Republic:

democracy-international.org/czechsituation.html

3) EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE: HOW TO PROCEED?

What would a failure of the constitution mean for the initiative right included in Art. 47-4?

We are currently checking options how to proceed with the project. Is it possible to get an initiative right even without a constitution? Which form is appropriate? What are our expectations?

Please send your comments to Michael Efler:

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www.democracy-international.org/eci.html

4) SOUTH TYROL: STRUGGLE FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY

In the Northern part of Italy an initiative is promoting the idea of direct democracy. The competition to get a fair regulation is still undecided. Please read the report by Thomas Benedikter, Bozen.

www.democracy-international.org/southtyrol.html

Ronald Pabst / Carsten Berg

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