



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 November 2004

**14195/1/04
REV 1**

INF 149

INFORMATION NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to : Working Party on Information

No. prev. doc. : 14195/04 INF 149, 13748/04 INF 147 + COR 1

Subject : "Communicating Europe"

- Follow-up to the 2nd informal ministerial meeting held in Amsterdam on
5 October 2004

Delegations will find at annex a revised version of document 14195/04.

Information on the Constitutional Treaty

1. Ratification procedures

Target date for ratification: November 2006.

Member State	Constitutional provision for referendum	Will have a referendum Yes / No	Timetable and question
Austria	No obligation.	No.	
Belgium	No obligation. If referendum it will not be binding.	Not yet decided.	
Czech Republic	No obligation.	Yes	June 2006 together with next parliamentary elections.
Denmark	Need a referendum and it will be binding.	Yes.	
Estonia	No obligation. Only advisory referendum.	Not yet decided.	
Finland	No obligation.	No.	
France	No obligation.	Yes.	
Germany	Constitution does not foresee a referendum.	No.	
Greece	No obligation.	No.	
Hungary	No obligation.	Not yet decided.	
Ireland	Referendum is binding.	Yes.	Not decided
Italy	Constitution does not foresee a referendum.	No.	
Cyprus	No obligation.	No.	
Latvia	No obligation.	Not decided yet.	
Lithuania	No obligation.	No.	Has ratified the Constitution on 11/11/2004.
Luxembourg	Chamber of deputies will first vote a draft legislation concerning the ratification of the European Constitution. This draft will be subject to a compulsory referendum.	Yes.	10 th of July 2005
Malta	No obligation.	No.	
Netherlands	No obligation.	Yes.	Probably in spring 2005.
Poland	No obligation. Referendum result is binding.	Not yet decided. Likely to have it.	Probably in autumn 2005 together with presidential elections.
Portugal	No obligation.	Yes.	Date to be defined. The exact terms of the question(s) to be submitted to a referendum are also at stake subject to thorough consultation among the major political parties and actors. According to Portugal's Constitutional rules, the question(s) to be submitted must be formulated in an objective, clear and precise way, and directed to straight answers "yes" or "no". According to Portugal's Constitutional rules, if less than half of the electorate takes part in the referendum, it will have no binding effect.
Slovakia	No obligation.	Not yet decided.	

Slovenia	No obligation.	No.	
Spain	No obligation.	Yes.	20 th February 2005. Question: "Do you approve the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe?"
Sweden	No obligation.	No.	
United Kingdom	No obligation.	Yes.	Date to be defined.

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Annex to the Annex(p. 35):

Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 14 October 2004 : "Ratification procedures of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and a communication strategy for the said Treaty".

2. Communication plans

All Member States are organising information campaigns. Main objectives: deliver clear and comprehensive information on the Constitutional treaty, to the general public as well as to specific audiences (see Chapter 6 – targeted audiences), responding to people's concerns and expectations and explaining the relevance of the Constitution for the citizens of the EU

Depending on the national ratification calendar, some Member States are already implementing detailed action plans or information campaigns whereas some are still developing plans and setting up adequate structures.

BE

Information and communication strategy on the European constitution being organised by the government, aiming at raising citizens' awareness and develop a European consciousness. Platform for discussion of communication actions with federal entities envisaged communicating the Constitution.

CZ

Need for a strong proactive campaign before the referendum. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (charged by the Government with coordinating the Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic after the accession to the EU) is currently preparing the information campaign on European Constitution in the period from 2005 till the summer 2006. However, its particular content depends on the political decision about the date of the Referendum.

DK

Date for referendum not yet decided. No decision has yet been taken with regard to information activities or the political campaign.

DE

Communication of the European Constitution is a core element of the information policy on Europe. The Federal Government and the 16 States (Bundesländer) therefore launch a proactive campaign with numerous events.

Targeted EU awareness-raising projects planned for 2005, among which are the following:

- Federal Government :
 - a) Prix Europe (for the general public and young directors - creation of wide public forum for the European debate);
 - b) Spot Europe (production of a spot for the above Price);
 - c) National conference "Communicate Europe" (for stakeholders in European Public Diplomacy);
 - d) Communicating Europe Workshops and Seminars (for opinion leaders and multipliers);
- Baden-Württemberg : 4th Stuttgart speech on Europe (for the general public);
- Berlin : International educational fair for young people "avanti" (for pupils, secondary students);
- Berlin : Discussion on the European Constitution (for young people/Students, general public);
- Brandenburg : Parliament Simulation - events at Brandenburg schools focussing on the Constitution
- Lower-Saxony : Information bus tour for schools;
- Saarland: Brochure on the European Constitution (for the general public);
- Saarland: Forum on the question of the enlargement and the European Constitution (students);
- Saxony-Anhalt : University dialogue on the European Constitution (academic public, business sector, students);
- Schleswig-Holstein : Discussion with EU-Commissioner (secondary schools students)
- Thuringia : International symposium "Europe after the Enlargement: consequences for economy and jobs (banks executives, business men, opinion leaders and multipliers, youth- and business work)

EE

European Union Information Unit of the State Chancellery of Estonia plan for introducing the European Union's Constitutional Treaty.

The Constitutional Treaty will be introduced primarily through media projects. Training sessions and the county information network will also be used. Emphasis of the campaign will be placed on supporting the agreement in the upcoming months and during the discussion on EU Constitutional Treaty in the Riigikogu (Parliament) (beginning of 2005).

EL

Government is preparing a pro-active campaign. The ratification of the Constitutional Treaty is a *test case* for "communicating Europe". Lack of a centrally-directed mechanism to disseminate European information. "Persuasion from above" would be rather counter-productive in the context of Greek cultural and information habits. At the same time, central guidance and coordination are indispensable for reasons of efficiency and political accountability. *An Inter-Departmental Coordination Committee on European Information* is taking shape and will shape, supervise, monitor and coordinate the public information campaign about the Constitution.

ES

The Government will carry out an information campaign to increase awareness of the achievements of Europe and the corollary of those achievements: the Constitutional Treaty. The referendum will be called in January, at least 30 days before it is held. By law, there can be no institutional propaganda in favour of a "Yes" vote once the referendum has been called. The government will therefore not campaign for a "Yes" vote; it will only run the information campaign and encourage participation. The information campaign has to stop 30 days before the referendum, i.e. on 20 January. From then on, the various political parties will run their own campaigns encouraging people to vote one way or the other.

FR

The French Government's communication plan for the European Constitution has a dual objective:

- to inform the people of France in an objective and educational manner of the main elements of the Constitutional Treaty, so that they can make their decision in full awareness of the facts;
- to encourage wide and varied debate, particularly within civil society, on the Constitutional Treaty and, beyond that, on European construction.

IE

Experience from previous referenda held on all major EU Treaties showed the vital importance of engaging the public in full and inclusive debate. Voter's access to information materials is vital. The Government plays a full and active part in the national debate and will be active in the provision of information material on the European Constitution. To coincide with signature the Department of Foreign Affairs published an Explanatory Guide to the European Constitution and an accompanying pamphlet. These are being given a wide distribution, through Government Departments and public offices, schools and libraries. The Explanatory Guide is also available on the Department's website.

It must be noted that, once the necessary legislation to provide for a referendum has been passed by Parliament, the Government is precluded from spending public money advocating a particular result. It may, however, publish non-directional factually based information materials (i.e. in past referenda, short information guides, setting out key features of the Treaties in question and White Papers providing more detailed descriptions).

A government-funded 'Referendum Commission' is constituted ahead of any referendum, including those on European matters. Its primary role is to explain the subject matter involved, to promote public awareness of the referendum, and to encourage the electorate to vote. It will play a major role for the referendum on the European Constitution.

IT

Several initiatives concerning information and communication have been defined with a view to the solemn ceremony of signature of the European Constitution in Rome on 29 October 2004 at the Capitol building. Consultations carried out with a view to organising common events, in the framework of the MOU signed in May 2003 between the Government, the Commission and the European Parliament.

Events organized during the week of signature: a symposium organised in the Chamber of Deputies by the European Greens; a University debate with the participation of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Giuliano Amato and Jean-Luc Dehaene; a meeting with Italian students: Romano Prodi's presentation of the results of the discussions on the European inter-cultural dialogue, coordinated by the Austrian philosopher, Professor Michalski; a concert at the Rome "Teatro dell'Opera", organised for the delegations of the 29 countries invited (the 25 Member States, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Turkey); a special television programme; the broadcast of the signing ceremony on the television networks; a Civil Society meeting organised by the European Federalists and the European Social Forum; final firework in conclusion.

CY

The Press and Information Office, in agreement with other services involved in providing the public with information on EU-related issues, will be carrying out specific actions (see Chapter 7. Communication means) to inform the people of Cyprus about the European Constitution.

LV

Not clear yet if Latvia will have referendum on the issue of Constitutional Treaty. Nevertheless, there still are various activities planned to inform the general public on this matter. The campaign will be divided in several phases, the first one covering the signing of the Constitutional Treaty, the second phase on the ratification process and the third one on the entry into force of the Constitutional Treaty.

LT

A Public information programme was set on the EU Constitutional Treaty for 2004-2005. The Government will engage in raising public awareness on Lithuania's priorities and actions in the EU, on the Constitutional Treaty and on the principles of EU functioning. The programme also includes an analysis of the public support, the identification of information needs and coordination of information activities among State institutions.

LU

Euro-barometer poll foresees broad support in Luxembourg to the new treaty. Government opted for a popular referendum, which will provide an opportunity to better explain Europe and bring it closer, since it is for the government to inform citizens of what is at stake with this new treaty. To this extent, an information and explanation campaign will be launched in order to drive Europe back into the public debate.

HU

Information and communication on the Constitution has already begun within the context of the 2004 Annual Communication Plan of the EU Communication Department of the Prime Ministers Office.

Specific information activities on the Constitution are also part of the 2005 draft Communication Plan, the timing of which is still subject to not yet known dates of related internal and external events. Therefore, information on the Constitution was/is linked to already on-going specific communication projects.

Last survey results available continue to show strong support for the Constitution and an 'average' knowledge of the issues involved. Alternative communication strategies for informing about the Constitution are waiting for approval.

MT

The Maltese Government, through its Malta-EU Information Centre will be launching a proactive campaign to inform the public about the new Constitution. The campaign will be conducted through various means.

NL

The Netherlands government will disseminate the argument in favour of the treaty through means of free publicity. Besides this, it will offer neutral information on the content of the treaty, which will be incorporated in the currently running government wide campaign on Europe. The government will also inform the public on the workings of a referendum.

AT

In view of communicating the New Constitution to the Austrian population the Austrian Federal Government places great emphasis on a proactive information campaign. Four concrete projects have been realised recently ore will be realised in the near future:

- On Austria's National Holiday (26. Oct) the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs organised an exhibition entitled "Europe. The Peace Project". This exhibition took place in the framework of an Open Day in the state rooms of the Federal Chancellery and the Foreign Ministry and gave the visitor a summary of the history of the European Union as well as an overview of the Constitution for Europe, which was signed immediately after this event, i.e. on 29 October 2004 in Rome. The exhibition focused particularly on those issues of the Constitution which are of direct concern to the European citizens and from which European citizens will directly benefit (e.g. European Citizenship, Charter of Fundamental Rights, etc.)
- On the occasion of the above mentioned Open Day a brochure entitled "The Constitution for Europe – the new rules of the game for peacefully living together in Europe" has been published and was distributed for the first time. This brochure offers a comprehensible overview of the structure and core elements of the Constitution for Europe.
- The Cultural Section of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs organised the project *Discovering Europe 25 – Enlargement–Culture–Citizens*, that brought together partners in all 25 EU-Member States. The project was supported by the European Commission. Project partners were either members of the European Commission's information relays "Info Point Europe" (IPE) and "Euro Info Centre" (EIC) or sections of the network of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and the Young European Federalists (JEF). The project aimed at making the new challenges of the enlarged European Union visible and raising the citizens' awareness for a common Europe of 25, by bringing them closer to the new member states, by reducing fear and prejudice and by promoting the diversity of European culture(s) as a driving force for the Future of

Europe. The activities in the framework of the project included the creation of a mobile exhibition with an accompanying booklet, local activities of the partners as well as information stands in all 25 member states around the Europe Day 2004 which were recorded on the project's homepage. The project was accomplished by a final conference at the University of Vienna on 5/6 November with 200 participants. That aimed at contributing to the ongoing debate of European cultural identity in the Union of 25 and discussing the need for a clear information and communication strategy on the part of the European institutions.

- Furthermore, on the occasion of Austria's 10-year membership in the EU, a three days' European Congress is intended to take place in February 2005 in Vienna, bringing together leading international scholars, politicians and corporate managers in order to reflect upon and discuss the major tasks and challenges lying ahead for the European Union within and beyond its current borders.

PL

The European Constitution is still a poorly known issue in Poland, and therefore it is an interesting subject for debates and discussions held by public figures and representatives of political parties.

Until now, in Poland the final decision as to the referendum on the Constitutional Treaty has not been made. Consequently no specific pre-referendum campaign has been undertaken. However, it can be expected that a possible pre-referendum campaign would be based on the experience gathered in the period preceding the accession referendum of spring 2003.

PT

Since the Portuguese Government is committed to hold a referendum on the Constitutional Treaty, it is of the utmost relevance to promote a national scale debate and publicity on what is in fact the Constitutional Treaty, what it changes from the Nice Treaty and so on.

No fixed plan has been approved by the Government yet but according to the outcome of the internal debates already occurred in the Council of Ministers, it is the Government's idea to launch pretty soon a campaign of information about the Treaty as such. A series of debates, interviews, brochures and leaflets will be produced. It is expected that part of these initiatives will take place in close coordination and co-operation with the EP and Commissions' representations in Lisbon, as was the case in previous campaigns.

The referendum will create the conditions to stimulate a broad debate in Portugal regarding the Constitutional Treaty, thus enabling the citizens to participate actively in a decision that will be of the most importance for the European Union as a whole.

There is an ongoing reflection on the exact form of the campaign to be promoted. Naturally, the nature and duration of the campaign will depend on the timing of the referendum. Experience already acquired in this field on the occasion of the recent Enlargement, when a broad information campaign on the new Member States was promoted in collaboration with independent institutions, organizations, universities and the mass media.

SI

Informing the public on the Constitutional treaty is one of the main priorities in the next year of the Slovene government and also all other EU information providers in Slovenia. Information on the Constitutional treaty is already part of all other governmental information and communication activities in the field of EU affairs (free-of-charge telephone line, public debates and presentations, projects carried out by the NGOs and co-financed by the Government, topical publications.

Specialized activities:

- 'Guide through European Constitution' - a publication with questions and answers on the Constitutional treaty
- Series of monthly public debates in the regional and local centers throughout the country
- 'Europhone on air' - talk show on regional and local radio and TV stations
- website on Constitutional treaty on <http://evropa.gov.si/ustava/> (Slovene only)
- 'Ask the Expert' - special section on the website in cooperation with the National Parliament

SK

Decision on the manner of ratification is yet to be made. Aims are to inform and raise public awareness about the importance of constitutional treaty, to contribute to the national debate and explain possible ways of ratification of the constitutional treaty in Slovakia. Government-elaborated 2-year Information strategy regarding the constitutional Treaty (2004-2005).

FI

In September a series of eight EU seminars was held in different regions for teachers of history and social sciences. The new Treaty was an integral part of these seminars. During the autumn and winter three regional seminars will be arranged for journalists on the Treaty. Four seminars for civil servants will be arranged also during the autumn and winter. During spring citizens' fora concentrating on the Treaty will be held in 22 towns.

Events focusing on the 10th anniversary of Finland's membership in the European Union are planned for 2005.

SE

The Government did already in April 2001 appoint the parliamentary EU 2004 Committee. The Committee assignment was from the outset to inform the public about and to promote the public debate on the future of the EU.

Many of the EU 2004 Committee activities have been connected with the constitutional treaty for the EU.

Three major tools used: a) Distribution of grants to projects run by or in cooperation with civil society organizations; b) production and distribution of printed information, both easy to read brochures as well as expert reports; c) a website with updated information on the debate on the future of the EU as well as a unique electronic debate forum. Much of the activities have taken place within a concept called the EU Relay, a nation wide information and debate campaign.

The EU 2004 Committee's assignment lasts until 31 December 2004. During the coming months activities will entirely focus on the constitutional treaty. The Committee has proposed to the government the setting up of a permanent public authority for the distribution of grants to projects. The aim of this authority should be to promote a broader public participation in the EU-debate and to increase public knowledge of current EU issues.

UK

Information and communications strategy to explain the EU Constitution is being developed. Work continues on providing general information on the benefits of the EU. We have produced a 'Guide to the EU' which includes basic information on how the EU works and what the proposed EU Constitution means for the UK. Generally we use six channels of communication: publications, proactive media relations, UK ministerial visits, information events and exhibitions, partnerships and e-communications, including a website.

3. Core messages

Information campaigns should contain clear and short messages in plain language, highlighting essential elements of the Constitution, common values, European added value, intended to attract interest of citizens

These messages should be objective, reliable and easy to understand, and be conveyed through the most appropriate means of communication, with a view to :

- sustaining citizens' support for EU membership*
- highlighting the added value of EU*
- explaining the Constitution's impact on the national and/or local realities*
- addressing the areas of major concerns for citizens*

EE

European Constitutional Treaty is agreement between states to clarify the new role of the European Union. It does not change the main idea of the EU and does not replace Estonian Constitution. European Constitutional Treaty clarifies competences of the EU and Member States. Purpose of this document is to settle down a more democratic, transparent and efficient Europe.

ES

The eyes of Europe will be on Spain because the Spanish referendum will be the first major test in the process of ratifying the European Constitution. Our vote will influence public opinion in other Member States of the Union. The theme for the campaign will be "first for Europe", reflecting the idea that by being the first Member State to hold a referendum to ratify the European Constitution, Spain is back at the heart of Europe and proves as much by being the first country to ratify.

Spain is doing well in Europe. The Spanish Government aims to mobilise public opinion by focusing on Spain's significant political, economic and social progress since it joined the EEC in 1986. The European Union has been very good for Spain, and it still is.

Spain wins more democracy, more freedom and more solidarity with the European Constitution. The Constitution adds the concept of citizenship to the construction of Europe. For the first time as Europeans, we will have a Charter of Fundamental Rights setting out our chosen model of society. As Spaniards, we will see our rights and freedoms extended and consolidated within an area comprising 25 States (for now). At the same time, the principles of internal and external solidarity of the European Union will be reinforced.

United in diversity. Particular attention will be given to the symbols of the EU (flag, anthem, Europe day, the Euro, etc.)

IT

The campaign information has been put together with an emphasis on short, clear and immediate messages explaining the key elements of the Constitution, and aiming at catching the attention and interest of the public. Focus on the four priority themes "enlargement, future of Europe, area of freedom, security and justice, and role of the EU in the World".

LT

The 2004-2005 Public Information program aims at maintaining public support for the Lithuania's membership in the EU. More specifically: promoting the European identity and European values; raising the level of public awareness about LT membership into the EU in general and the Constitutional Treaty in particular; promoting active participation of the society in the euro-integration process.

MT

The objective would be to provide an explanation in layman's language. Moreover, the campaign would try to explain the Constitution from a Maltese perspective: the concerns and expectations of the Maltese would find their respective answers in the Constitution.

FI

The seminars and events concerning the Constitution will concentrate on the practical content of the Treaty and the main changes it will bring about.

UK

Core messages will set out simply and clearly what the Constitution will and will not do, separating fact from fiction.

4. Co-operation with EU institutions

As regards the information campaigns being developed with a view to the ratification of the Constitutional treaty, the majority of Member States' national, regional and local authorities are willing to collaborate with the local EU Commission and European Parliament representations. Cooperation is expected to be intensified through joint actions.

Some Member States have set close contacts with their elected Members of the European Parliament or have already established EU parliamentary committees which will now focus on the Constitutional treaty

CZ

The forthcoming information campaign incorporates a coordination of activities with the Permanent Representation of the European Commission and the Information Service of the European Parliament in the Czech Republic in a framework of the contemplated Strategic Partnership.

DE

The Federal Government cooperates with the European Institutions represented in Germany, in particular with the Information Office of the European Parliament.

EE

EU information Unit has close relations with European Institutions represented in Estonia. EU information Unit plans close cooperation with them on introducing European Constitutional Treaty in 2005.

ES

European agricultural and rural development funds will be used to finance campaigns to publicise the work of EAGGF and ERDF and their achievements in Spain. The European Commission will provide 5 million brochures, which the Government will distribute.

FR

In 2004, the European Commission will provide national authorities with information material currently being prepared by the Commission's Secretariat-General:

- the publication and delivery to about fifty relay points of 110 000 copies of two brochures on the Constitutional Treaty, one for the general public entitled "Une constitution pour l'Europe" ("A constitution for Europe") and a second for a more informed readership; the brochures will be delivered to relay points and networks;
- the production and release at the end of November of an eight minute non-copyright video presenting the main elements of the Constitutional Treaty and showing how it was drawn up;
- the production and distribution of 30 specimen display panels on the Constitutional Treaty.

In the framework of the strategic partnership between the French Government, the European Commission and the European Parliament, the European Commission could take responsibility in particular for:

- Publishing an edition of the Treaty, which could be sent to French citizens on request by the call centre or Internet site. Currently, the magazine "l'Hémicycle" is distributing a document of this type through newsagents, priced at EUR 3. However, the print run is only 70 000 copies;
- a much broader distribution of the three tools produced by the European Commission in 2004: the brochure for the general public; the video on the Constitutional Treaty; and the French version of the display panels on the Constitutional Treaty.

In liaison with the European Parliament, a poster campaign is planned for railway stations when people are setting off on their holidays in February. The Commission could also help form a pool of experts from its own staff and from other Member States to give a European dimension to the various activities planned.

IT

The planning and organisation of all the initiatives has been carried out in close collaboration with the Commission and European Parliament. It has been done within the framework of the strategic partnership and in conformity with the agreement made between the Italian Government, the Commission and the European Parliament in the Memorandum of Understanding of May 2003. The aim is to coordinate and optimise information activities on the four priority themes (enlargement, the future of Europe, an area of freedom, security and justice, and the role of the EU in the world).

LT

There is quite close cooperation and collaboration in Lithuania between national, regional and EU institutions in information provision activities. All these institutions together create EU Information Network.

EU Information Network consists of:

- The Division on Public Relations and Information on EU under the office of Prime Minister
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries
- The Information Centre of the European Commission Delegation (ECD)
- 48 info shelves, established by ECD to Lithuania, maintained by ECD and coordinated by Information Centre.
- 10 regional European information centres established and maintained by the European Committee under the Lithuanian Government with assistance from PHARE
- European Information centre set up in the Parliament, Seimas
- European Parliament's Information Bureau

AT

The Federal Government cooperates closely with the Permanent Representation of the European Commission and the Information Service of the European Parliament in Austria. In the past, concrete cooperation could not be realised in some projects due to different budgetary regulations. (A concrete case of cooperation between the Government and the European Commission is the above mentioned project *Discovering Europe 25 – Enlargement–Culture–Citizens.*)

SI

We are to establish the strategic partnership with the Representation of the European Commission in Slovenia and the Information Office of the European Parliament in Ljubljana. According to a joint communication and information programme all partners foresee some of the joint activities (publications, public debates, presentations etc.)

SK

As regards the strategy for 2004, government will endeavour to cooperate with all EU institutions' representations in Slovakia, especially with the European Parliament which is preparing a major campaign on the constitutional treaty.

FI

The Finnish Government works in close cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission in Finland in arranging the regional events and producing publications. Costs of these events may be shared among the different organizers, and representatives of all institutions are welcome to take part in the events.

UK

We are in regular contact with the European Commission and European Parliament representations in the UK in order to inform them of our work in this area.

5.
a. **Actors**¹

*Government,
Regional/Local authorities
Social partners, Interest groups
National Fora, Committees, Funds, Institutes and Observatories
Civil society
NGOs
All levels of Schools, in particular Universities
Ad hoc Organisations
Regional and local radio network
Media
Political parties*

Public authorities and private organisations are involved at different levels in all Member States to reach the widest audience possible and to raise EU awareness in all categories of population.

BE

Government, Communities, Regions and different federal bodies are collecting information concerning communication, consciousness-raising and promotion actions and means. The Government will examine such information in order to determine appropriate actions that could be regrouped under two kinds of initiatives:

- a) communication actions by federal/regional/local bodies: for instance, launching an interactive debate, improving the official web portal of the Belgian federal government, organising an information campaign on the European Constitution;
- b) Belgium, the EP Information Bureau for Belgium, Communities and Regions, Provinces and Communs, cultural and youth associations, social partners, other associating movements, think tanks, public libraries, Chambres of Commerce and Mixed Committees established in Belgium and affiliated, relays and specialised official information networks of the EU in Belgium. These last bodies are linked with other networks such as the *grands centres* of European information and studies, the European Documentation Centres (E.D.C.), the network of speakers « Team Europe », the « Eurodesks » network and the Euro Info Centres (EIC) network.

CZ

Information on European issues, including the European Constitution, are provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (by means of its web server and a free information line), the Ministry of Information (through its public administration portal), the Government and Regional Authorities, the Parliament, NGOs and the media.

DE

Besides the Federal Government and the 16 States NGOs play in Germany a vital role in the communication campaigns concerning the constitution. Among them are pro-European movements like the European Movement Germany, the YEF, the German Society, the Institute for European Politics but also the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce to name just a few. Other partners are academic institutions or the German Adult Education Association. Due to the decentralized character of these campaigns the Federal Government does not dispose of statistic material on the exact scope and effect of such initiatives. Nevertheless it is widely assumed that a multi-faceted approach to the communication challenge posed by the European Constitution Treaty is better suited to the various information needs of different target groups than a large-scale one-size-fits-all campaign.

¹ As regards the possible role of national parliaments, see page 17.

EE

EU Information specialists from county governments will present Constitutional Treaty information in the counties through lectures and seminars.

The EU Information Centre of the Estonian National Library will be organizing special information events on European Constitutional Treaty.

The Open Estonia Fund will run the project "The EU Constitutional Treaty and participation democracy". The project's main goal is to help in developing a citizen friendly European Union, which actively promotes the participation of citizens in political activities. One concrete goal is to increase the public's knowledge of the Constitutional Treaty while creating discussion. The project includes several citizen associations.

EL

The Greek Government will seek to engage leading public personalities, as many public and private organizations and institutions as possible, NGO's etc in a concerted effort to reach a wider audience. Preliminary consultations have started.

ES

The Government wants democratic political forces, government departments and society at large, including the worlds of education, media and business, to participate in that campaign.

The Prime Minister launches the information campaign after the signing of the Treaty in Rome on 29 October. He will in cooperation with the MFA work actively for the dissemination of the Constitution before the referendum campaign begins. The Ministry of the Interior will organise the poll, as it does for all elections.

The Prime Minister has summoned the presidents of Spain's autonomous communities to a meeting to obtain their support.

Although the political parties have no specific revenues for referendum campaigns, it is their job to mobilise citizens, business associations, universities and local councils.

Agreements already reached with trade unions and the Governing Council of the Chambers of Commerce to promote public debate on the Constitution. An agreement with the universities will be signed so that they too take part in the information campaign.

The various government ministries will draw up a report containing a brief historical review of Spain's contributions to the EU and some insight into what the Constitutional Treaty holds for the future.

FR

From the end of 2004, a large-scale regional and local debate will be launched, with backing from an ad hoc structure (the "Mission Europe" set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and from the Minister with responsibility for European Affairs.

Arrangements will be based on:

- the organisation of large-scale forums in each region, with ministers taking part;
- support for civil society organisations (Europe networks, associations, local representatives) which wish to spread the debate locally (financial support; provision of a list of "pundits" with a good knowledge of Europe to participate in debates).

A national dialogue fund could be created, to be operational from January 2005. With a budget of some EUR 2 million, it could support organisations wishing to arrange debates. A selection committee would distribute grants according to certain quality criteria outlined in a set of specifications; organisation of one-off forums on the internet.

IE

In 2001 the Government established the National Forum on Europe, which played an important role in the second referendum on the Treaty of Nice. It brings together representatives of political parties with observers from the civil and voluntary sectors and its membership reflects all shades of opinion on EU issues. It will continue to play a central role in the debate ahead.

While the Government may not spend public money advocating an outcome in a referendum, political parties and other interested groups may raise and spend money on the campaign. Various groups and coalitions have participated in recent campaigns on both sides of the argument.

In addition to political parties, business organisations, trades unions, farming organisations and other representatives of civil society have been active in this regard. It is expected that this pattern will continue.

IT

Public events will be organised in cooperation with the Presidency Department for Community policies, the Commission and European Parliament representations in Italy, the Directorate General for European Integration of the MFA and the Lazio Region, the Province and the City of Rome, the Ministry for Education, University and Research, the CNEL and associations of Heads of Enterprise and labour unions.

Community information is managed directly by the Government, specifically by the Presidency Department for the Community policies. Information activities also carried out by the Italian Centre for Information and Community Documentation (contract European Commission/Italian Government). The aim is to provide information, documentation and general services concerning EU topics and to promote and cooperate in all initiatives.

The Committee "Observatory on the European Convention" plays a key role in explaining the constitutional treaty. It also ensured liaison between the civil society and the Italian representatives, who took part in the sessions of the convention, it also works in close connection with the Italian regions, local organisations and academic centres. The Committee runs a special project for those young people who lack basic information on the European Integration process, taking also part in the European Convention for Young People, as well as in similar Conventions at national and regional level.

A particular effort was made for the improvement of the institutional communication instruments to follow the debate on the Future of Europe through the Internet portal. The "Observatory for the European Citizenship", established by the Ministry of Community policies, intends to promote the debate on the future of Europe and promote, coordinate and control initiatives aiming at the reinforcement of the European citizenship at local, regional and national level.

Government, local authorities (in particular the municipality of Rome), political parties, interest groups, social partners, NGOs and civil society have to varying extents given full prominence to the occasion of the signing of the European Constitution. On 30 January 2004 an agreement was made between the Italian Prime Minister's Office/Department for Community Policies and the Ministry of Education, the Universities and Research to set up a training project for administrators and lecturers in higher education establishments on the subject of European citizenship, to be carried out during 2004.

Within the framework of the strategic partnership with the European Commission, the Italian authorities have also stressed the need to plan and carry out information and communication campaigns on the European Constitution aimed at the general public during 2005.

LV

Several activities are planned not by the government institutions, but also by the Parliament EU Information center and NGOs.

LT

Implementers and partners of the Public Information Programme are the European Union Department/MFA (the main planning and implementing institution), the Division of Public Relations and information on EU / Prime Minister's Office, other state institutions, Members of European Parliament (from Lithuania), Municipalities, NGO's, the European Commission Delegation, Embassies of the EU Member States.

LU

Co-operation with the European Commission representation and with the Bureau of the EP in Luxembourg during the recent information campaign on enlargement will continue. The Luxembourg government aims to work again in a spirit of partnership, with a view to implementing this new information and communication campaign that is one of the priorities for 2005.

MT

It is not yet clear what the other political parties will be doing as regards the EU Constitution.

AT

Information on European issues, including the European Constitution, are provided by the Federal Government, Regional and Local Authorities, the Parliament, Interest groups, social partners, NGOs, and the media.

PL

The OCEI and other relevant ministries as well as interested NGOs will participate in information actions concerning the Constitution.

Expected a significant interest of NGOs, including the network of Regional Centres for European Information, pro-European associations and foundations which for many years have been providing information to specific target groups.

Political parties will have programmes including the approach to the issue of the European Constitution, and who initiate discussions in the media.

Other local initiatives may also be expected: universities, organisations of Polish employers and NGOs.

PT

It is expected that the political parties as well as some civil organizations will also campaign promoting debates, demonstrations, exhibitions and propaganda.

SI

In the frame of our activities we cooperate with regional and local authorities, primary and secondary schools, NGOs, National Parliament, regional and local media and with their own partners and multipliers etc.

FI

The Prime Minister's Office and the Europe Information network of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are the main actors in arranging the information work concerning the Constitution. Other ministries have participated in the organization of several events. The Parliament has arranged seminars and material for Members of the Parliament. NGO's may apply for financial support aimed at information on the Constitution. There is no updated information available on events and material compiled by other actors.

SE

Swedish national parliament has so far decided not to carry through a referendum on the new constitutional treaty. An overwhelming majority of the political parties has declared that the decision on the ratification should be taken by the Parliament.

UK

All government departments, regional and local authorities, NGOs, pro-European groups and a number of private organisations are engaged in communicating the benefits of the EU.

b. National parliaments

Information activities are mainly organised by governments; in certain Member States, Parliaments are also involved in the communication process.

In some cases, national Parliaments play an important role and sometimes act even as co-organisers:

Co-operating with the government in all the information activities

Calling for hearings or promoting/organising public debates

Training MPs or/and employees of the Parliament

Distributing the Treaty and related materiel to citizens

Organising televised debates on Constitution

Seminars, Helpdesks, Websites

In some Member States no parliamentary campaigns are envisaged, since only political parties may campaign

BE

No decision taken yet concerning the organisation of a popular consultation before the adoption of the Constitution. A proposal was submitted to the national Parliament to this extent and will be examined in October 2004. Following the Belgian constitutional rules, the decision on this issue belongs to the federal Parliament and the other parliamentary assemblies, which are competent to express an opinion on the ratification of the Constitution. The role of the members of the national Parliament will certainly depend on the need to associate a consultation mechanism to the ratification.

CZ

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (as a coordinator of the Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic after the accession to the EU) continues the cooperation with the national parliament in the field of exchanging and supplying information, not in the political part of the communication.

DK

The Government intends to have a dialogue with the political parties of the Parliament on the modalities for the coming referendum and related information activities.

DE

As a legislative body the Federal Parliament does not campaign for the European Constitution. However MP's or parliamentary groups play an active role in the constitutional debate. The Federal Government reports to the Parliament about its European information policy on a regular basis.

EL

Members of the Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs already briefed by Deputy MFA on the main provisions of the Treaty and held preliminary discussions with them. Parliament, since it has to ratify the Treaty, has an important role in shaping the information campaign. MFA will ask the Parliament to put forward concrete ideas. A set of proposals by the General Secretariat of Information is already under discussion: they include "open door days" at the Parliament for citizens and for schools, exhibitions at the Parliament's building on Europe and other "European events" organized by and with the participation of the President of the Parliament. (Greek dimensions in all events). The 24 Greek MEPs are going to be fully involved in the campaign.

FR

If the referendum originates in Parliament, then Parliament will obviously have a role to play. However, it could also have a crucial role to play in the coming months if a constitutional revision is needed in order to ratify the constitutional treaty.

IE

The Bill to amend the Irish Constitution to allow for ratification has to be approved by both Houses of the Oireachtas (Parliament) before being put to the people. It can be expected that both Houses will continue to debate the European Constitution from time to time, that the joint Committee on European Affairs will continue to examine it, and that individual parliamentarians will pose questions to the Government on particular issues.

IT

The Italian Parliament will cooperate with the Government to carry out the above-mentioned initiatives.

LV

Saeima (Parliament of Latvia) EU Information centre publishes weekly news bulletin "Eiroziņas" which provides information on Constitutional Treaty on regular basis. All members and employees of parliament receive "Eiroziņas" as well as all heads of local self-governments and ministries. "Eiroziņas" are distributed to schools, High schools and libraries in all Latvia. More than 700 people receive news bulletin via e-mail.

Latest information and articles are accessible via Internet. There is a downloadable text of Constitutional Treaty, also a consolidated version in Latvian. It is planned to publish fact sheet. General public is also regularly informed on EU issues by answering direct questions.

Informative seminars will be organized on Constitutional Treaty for employees of fractions, commissions and chancellery of Saeima.

LT

Lithuanian Parliament is closely involved in the information activities on EU. The aim is to keep national members of Parliament constantly informed about EU matters. Twice a year Committee of European Affairs seeks to hold its visiting meetings in Brussels and once in a member state that holds presidency at that time. Seimas has its own Euro-integration program, which consists of specialised training, visits to EU institutions as well as visit to relevant institutions of member states, formal and informal discussions on EU matters with domestic actors, etc.

LU

As regards the national Parliament, the Chamber of deputies intends to organise hearings with the civil society.

MT

MIC will use its own budget but will also try to rope in the Information Office of the European Parliament in Malta. The two entities have been working on joint ventures over the past year on activities related to EU information.

NL

An independent commission will be installed by the national parliament. This commission is responsible for the provision of a comprehensible version of the treaty to the Dutch citizens. The commission also manages a campaign fund of 1.000.000 euro. This fund is available for other parties to campaign for or against the treaty.

The referendum in the Netherlands is advisory. The national parliament has taken the initiative for the referendum.

AT

The Austrian Parliament of course wants also to perform its own role in conveying the changes implied by the Constitutional Contract to the general public. This will be effected by way of:

a) debates within and outside Parliament during the ratification process; b) participation of Members of Parliament in various discussion events; c) strengthening of the Parliament's profile in EU matters. As regards the third point, it is intended to reserve one plenary session day of the National Council per month for EU matters. In addition to the expert committees responsible for the ratification (constitution committee), the public sessions of the principal committee and its permanent EU subcommittee as well as the EU committee of the Federal Council will from time to time express their views as regards any changes to the Constitutional Treaty. Furthermore, a modification of the rules of procedure will create a possibility to give the floor to representatives of EU institutions in plenary sessions.

The Austrian Parliament is aware of the strengthened role of national parliaments of EU Member States, and will deliberate on how the Parliament could possibly be "europeanised".

PL

The parliament, fulfilling its legislative role, does not plan an information campaign at this stage. However, specific means will be used in order to sparkling the public debate. Usually all plenary proceedings of the Sejm (lower chamber) are transmitted on public television. It may be expected that such televised debate will be planned over the resolution to hold national referendum on ratification of the Constitutional Treaty in Poland.

PT

The national Parliament will play an equally essential role in stimulating a nationwide debate, as was the case in previous major EU decisions. The Government will submit this issue to the Parliament's agenda on a regular basis, until a broad consensus is reached.

In what regards the cooperation between the Member States and EU institutions, Portugal acknowledges that "the European integration process needs more meaning and more publicity", as the European Commission has pointed out, in the context of the Information and Communication Strategy of the EU. The Portuguese Government will actively engage in the proposed reinforced institutional cooperation within the EU.

SI

The activities of the national parliament are not clear yet, because of the forthcoming elections.

FI

The Parliament arranges seminars and produces an info kit for parliamentarians.

SE

Besides the activities carried out by the EU 2004 Committee, the Parliament has since this year the overall responsibility for information about the EU to the public. A special helpdesk and a web site have been developed for this purpose.

UK

Both Houses of Parliament will consider legislation on the EU Constitution before the referendum. The national parliament does not have any formal communication role in relation to the EU Constitution.

6. Target audiences

Although EU information campaigns are aimed at the wider public, Member States will also draw attention to targeted key-sectors :

citizens living in rural areas and in border areas - including minorities, residents in less developed regions, small- and medium-sized enterprises, elderly persons, women.

Significant efforts are always being made also for the young people and within the whole academic world.

Comprehensive information for the multipliers (conferences, seminars and workshops being organised for teachers and journalists) are deemed essential, in order to strengthen the effect of the information about the Constitutional Treaty and to increase the overall degree of awareness

CZ

The forthcoming information campaign is intended to reach a broad public and opinion makers.

DE

Some of the target groups are the eurosceptics: lower education level; politically uninformed; older age groups.

EE

The target group is general public but also students, teachers, government officials and journalists.

EL

Need to reach people living in remote regions, to involve citizens at community and local authority levels.

ES

The target group is the population at large.

IT

In order to achieve best results from information and communication activities, it was decided that direct targeting of precise groups in specific sectors of the population – in particular, students of all types and levels, businessmen and public operators – would have the greatest impact and immediate effectiveness.

LT

The target groups are opinion leaders, media, youth, interest groups, new Members of Parliament and other politicians.

PL

Campaign would be based on the experience from the accession referendum of spring 2003. In this case the main target groups for the campaign should be the groups sensitive to information and those searching for it (e.g.: students, youth, teachers, entrepreneurs) and those who show little interest in public issues (e.g.: farmers, unemployed).

AT

Generally, information campaigns are intended to reach a broad public. Depending on the event / information measure the focus might be put on a specific target audience.

SI

- general public
- opinion leaders
- media
- the young (pupils and students)
- farmers and the rural population
- national minorities.

SK

The target groups are general public, people of productive age, young people (secondary school and university students).

FI

The main target groups are the general public as a whole, teachers, journalists and Government officials.

UK

We will provide factual information on the EU Constitution for all members of the British public – including information specifically tailored for businesses, employees, older people, students, and women. We will also engage opinion formers, interest groups, local and national media.

7. Communication means

Communication instruments to be used will include primarily TV and written press, since these media are able to reach large audiences.

There is general view that TV and radio broadcasts are considered to be efficient vehicles to deliver core messages. In some Member States, the Constitutional Treaty will be advertised through national/local TV and radio, as well as through printed press.

Information brochures will be available to the public. Internet and call centres will be widely used.

Special events will be organised, often in form of locally-tailored initiatives, such as road shows, open days, exhibitions, public debates, local info points, conferences, bus trips, sports events.

BE

Communication instruments will depend on the methods of ratification. Without prejudice to decisions still to be taken, a wide range of tools will be used in order to reach all different audiences: large scale information (brochures, leaflets, CD-rom, video-cassettes, slides), publicity in local/national written press, press dossiers, studies, information letters, posters, games, magazines, etc.; special events (open days), seminars, animations, public debates, competitions/quiz (FAQ's), information days, expos (Fête de l'Europe), visits, opinion polls and a call centre; Internet; national/local TV, initiatives at local/national radio level (sponsorship of programmes, direct advertising) documents; travelling exhibitions; local/regional meetings with citizens/civil society; cultural events.

CZ

The most effective means of communication have proved the permanent information measures:

- the web server www.euroskop.cz Established in 1999, containing now a separate section explaining the key elements of the Constitution, including the FAQ pages
- the free information line. Operated since October 2001, currently with 15 000 calls per month.

In terms of the size of the public reached, TV spots, advertising posters and information pages in newspapers, supported with publication of information leaflets and materials, public debates and seminars.

DE

The Federal Government makes use of all available communication channels (TV, radio, print-media, public actions and events, Internet). The Internet plays an ever more important role because of its obvious advantages (low distribution cost, fast information transmission, interactivity).

The Federal Government offers Internet information. Unfortunately the Internet cannot reach not all the target groups adequately, therefore a multi-channel approach of European information campaigns seems for the time being necessary.

EE

The government uses various means of communication. The emphasis is placed on media projects: television, radio and printed media. This decision was made following the results of surveys (including the last Eurobarometer), which showed that people preferred to receive information via television, radio and print media. Estonians are also active in obtaining information through the Internet.

Media projects:

1. Constitutional Treaty themed 8 page special insert in the newspapers *Postimees* and *SL Õhtuleht*
2. Two radio programs on the Constitutional Treaty broadcasted by 9 county radio stations
3. Weekly radio commentary at national radio station

4. Opinion articles in various newspapers
5. Russian insert in the newspaper *Vesti*
6. Constitutional Treaty Agreement related programming on commercial TV station Kanal 2.(nov.2004)
7. Series of radio broadcasts on the Constitutional Treaty in regional radio station (2005)
8. Leaflet "Ten main points about European Constitutional Treaty" (nov.2004)
9. Information sheet about European Constitutional Treaty
10. Special website with search engine on EU Constitutional Treaty (<http://euro.delfi.ee/>)

Training sessions:

1. Training of EU Information specialists from county governments at the State Chancellery to prepare for the operation of information events and training sessions at the local level.
2. Training session for journalists.

Network:

1. The distribution of 2 000 additional copies of the Constitutional Treaty Agreement themed 8 page special insert.
2. Seminars for various target groups (throughout the year).

EL

- Information campaign has to reach remote regions of Greece
- Campaign to involve citizens at the community and local authority levels.
- Information activities covered by national, regional and local media - public and commercial (Press, Radio, TV).

The government is studying some concrete proposals submitted by the General Secretariat of Information as follows:

- Panel discussion programs on specific European issues (radio and TV)
- Setting up of a special website on the Treaty and creation of thematic online euro-debates
- TV spots, ads on radio and the national and local press, specialized publications
- In close collaboration with the Ministry of Education to study proper ways to include into the Curriculum of Secondary Education civic instruction on the European Union, its institutions, values and functioning. As a first step a special "information kit" is to be prepared for Secondary Education students/teachers.
- An open school competition about writing an essay on the Constitution. The best of them will be rewarded.
- Publication of a brochure in plain language, explaining the main points of the Constitutional Treaty and their added value for the Greeks. (Wide distribution and emphasis on everyday life).
- Mobilizing and supporting European Departments in Greek Universities and relevant Research Centres and Think Tanks to organize seminars, public events etc at high level with the participation of some important European politicians and "recognizable" European public figures.
- Seminars for Greek journalists.
- Co-operation with trade unions for the presentation and proper explanation of the Charter on Fundamental Rights. A special brochure to be published.
- "Talk to Europe". Creation of a "special European corner" at each of the more than a thousand "Citizens Information Centers" around the country, equipped with a telephone set, so that it can be used by people who might want to ask questions about Europe. That is getting in touch with "Europe Direct".
- *Eurobus* and *Euroboat* in remote areas of rural Greece and its islands to disseminate information on European issues.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in co-operation to the Dutch EU Presidency hosted September 2004 an event commemorating European excellence in Sports, in time with the start of the Athens Paralympic Games and promoted nationally the Communicating Europe initiative. The event was attended by many EU-25 athletes and Ministers of Sports, representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the media etc. The main theme of the event was "Europe First: the Leading Power in World Sports". Greece plans to continue to emphasise the European dimension in sports, as part of the Communicating Europe project.

ES

- The Government will begin the campaign at the end of this year in the written media and on radio and television.
- The Prime Minister will attend events to promote the Constitution, together with other European leaders.
- Courses, seminars and conferences on the EU will be organised.
- A brief analysis of the Constitutional Treaty will be published but for a limited target audience (government departments, universities, European information centres, information points, the media, etc).
- There are plans to issue a stamp to mark the European Constitution.
- The ONCE (the Spanish National Organisation for the Blind), which runs one of Spain's most popular lotteries, will organise a special lottery based on the European Constitution theme.

- Publications: The Government will be arranging to have the Constitutional Treaty published institutionally so as to ensure that the full text of the Treaty will be available to all persons on request between 20 January and 20 February 2005.
- Private initiatives: the newspaper *Expansión* plans to publish the text, and *Biblioteca Nueva*, in conjunction with the *Real Instituto Elcano*, will be publishing it on 28 October.
- Five million brochures on the European Constitution prepared by the European Commission will be distributed.
- A general Powerpoint presentation on the Constitution will be prepared to serve as the basis for all presentations by experts.
- A CD or mini-CD setting out the most important aspects of the Constitutional Treaty may also be launched.

Initiatives being considered specifically for young people:

- A European Constitution "game" for young people between 13 and 18.
- Information brochures to explain the European Constitution to school teachers
- A "Europe day" in all schools
- From 11 to 13 November 2004 the Youth Council will be hosting a meeting in Spain attended by Mr Borrell.

TV programmes: Television game shows aimed at secondary school and university students will be broadcast by regional and local television stations.

- Question and answer programmes will also be broadcast by regional or local television stations, with the participation of European Commissioners, the President of the European Parliament, etc.
- Discussion sessions involving young people and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

With respect to the media, several initiatives have already been launched:

- RNE: two programmes on Europe (one on Saturday mornings and another new programme on Thursday nights)
- Radio 5: brief explanatory slots on the Constitution at the end of news broadcasts
- TVE: there are plans to launch a campaign of short promotional spots on the Constitution (similar to those run for the euro).
- The Commission is financing around 10 projects on the subject of Europe to be broadcast by different television channels, e.g. "*Somos Europa*" (We are Europe!) on Telecinco, "*Nueva Europa*" on CNN+, "*Europa a 25*" on Valencia regional television and "*Europa a 25*" on Canal Sur.
- The European Parliament and the Association of European Journalists are working together on the "Constitution Thursday" project.
- The European Parliament has also invited a group of between 20 and 25 journalists to Strasbourg on 15 December to see close up how the Parliament works.
- Spain's Permanent Representation to the EU will be organising a cycle of lectures/debates on the European Constitution in Brussels.

FR

Beginning in 2004, means of communication will be put in place by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Minister with responsibility for European Affairs, to enable the French public to become more familiar with the contents of the Constitutional Treaty:

- the launch of a dedicated site on the contents of the Constitutional Treaty www.constitution-europeenne.fr This site should be open by the end of October. It will provide information but will also be a place for different views to be expressed, particularly through the forums which will be run on it;
- an explanatory brochure entitled "*Constitution européenne mode d'emploi*" ("A user's guide to the European Constitution") will be produced by the national authorities and distributed in early November to the press and to administrative departments, national and local elected representatives, consular bodies etc;
- the text of the Constitutional Treaty is already available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs internet site and will be made available to the French public for consultation (110 000 copies) in town halls and post offices;
- a call centre will be set up at the end of October and run until the end of December 2004 to respond directly to all the questions which the French public might ask about the Constitutional Treaty and its consequences for their everyday lives.
- For 2005, a major campaign on a popular channel is currently being prepared. On the government side, this will include:
- the distribution to 26 million households in early 2005 of an eight-page brochure presenting the main innovations in the Constitutional Treaty;
- national telephone call centre with responses coordinated with the number set up by the European Commission;
- The prime time broadcasting on a popular channel of short programmes on what Europe has achieved in practice and how this can be seen in the everyday lives of the people of France.

Finally, the Treaty will be sent to all French citizens before the referendum as electoral material.

IE

Naturally, voters continue to receive most of their information ahead of referendums through media coverage, including articles and debates on radio and TV and in newspapers. As in any other political campaign, these can be the most important influencers of public opinion.

In October 2001, the Government established the National Forum on Europe. It facilitates a wide-ranging debate on matters relating to the European Union and Ireland's membership of it. It has followed and debated work on the new European Constitution throughout the Convention and IGC processes. It will be an important forum for debate on the Constitution as we move towards a referendum. The Forum, which is funded by the Government, has published a number of reports and analyses, in addition to debating key issues and hosting a range of guest speakers.

It has indicated an intention to produce a 'user-friendly' guide to the Constitution probably in Video and DVD format. The Communication Europe Initiative is in the process of discussing possible input into this project that is expected to have very wide distribution in Ireland in the autumn of 2004. The National Forum on Europe will also continue its active contributions to local media throughout all Irish regions, particularly local radio coverage, which has proved a very valuable information tool in the past.

Referendum Commissions, also funded by Government, have published simple and attractively presented materials, which have been distributed to all voters. They have also used extensive media advertising to explain and raise public awareness of the issues. A Referendum Commission will be established for this referendum also.

IT

The most successful means of communications in terms of cost-effectiveness - taking into account the targeted audience - will be the media, even though this kind of advertising deserves a follow-up with more indepth activity.

Different events will be organised:

- Publicity spots and TV programmes on the state and private networks, to provide general information and in depth analysis of this subject.
- Television broadcast on the European Constitution and the European integration, to be transmitted in the period between the signing of the Treaty and its ratification by the Italian Parliament on the satellite channels of Rai Educational to around 8 000 secondary schools. An average viewing figure is approximately 750 000 pupils.
- Advertising campaigns in the main press
- Photographic displays on the process of European integration
- Meetings and open debates for Heads of enterprises, unions and civil society representatives,
- Open debates with the academic world (universities, junior and secondary schools),
- A fun event for a wide audience (concert of modern music with Italian and Foreign singers),
- CD-ROMs, posters etc.
- Publication during the day of 29 October of a page on the subject of the European Constitution in a number of news publications.
- Dissemination of information on the public transport and railway networks of fifteen Italian cities, including the largest ones; video presentations on the Constitutional Treaty in the main airports in Italy.
- Advertising posters placed on public transport in 20 major Italian cities.
- 16-page brochure published by the European Commission, of which at least 100 000 copies are to be distributed.
- Europe Student Campus 2004 from 26 to 29 October in Orvieto on the subject of the new Constitutional Treaty and the new structure of the enlarged Europe, the history of the European Union, education and training, the Treaty of Nice, youth and the future of Europe.
- Priority postage stamp to commemorate the signing of the Treaty, available at Italian post offices as from 29 October 2004.

CY

Main TV channels, audiovisual release (DVD, CD), press articles, Internet, free publications.

- The text of the Constitution, in both Greek and English, will be available on the Press and Information Office's website. Several websites of organisations participating in the information campaign will create a special banner inviting the public to obtain information on the European Constitution. There are also special articles explaining what the Constitution will mean for European citizens. The final text of the Constitution as published by the European Commission will also be posted.
- A series of programmes explaining the main provisions and the significance of the Constitution will be broadcast on the main television channels.
- In collaboration with the European Institute, events will be organised in Nicosia, Lemesos, Paphos and Larnaca at which prominent personalities from either Greece or abroad will give talks and explain the significance of the Constitution. These events may be held in collaboration with town councils and other organisations with an interest in European issues.
- The visual material on the European Constitution prepared by the EU will also be available to the television channels. The various short films and other material will be copied onto DVD and CD for distribution in Cypriot schools.

- A series of special feature articles which the European Union is expected to prepare or which will be specially written in Cyprus will be put together for publication in the Cypriot national press. At least eight such articles are expected to be written, explaining in simple words the significance of the European Constitution for the general public.
- National and major local radio stations will be encouraged to present programmes on the European Constitution.
- At least two leaflets on the European Constitution will be produced for distribution for example for schools.
- The Ministry of Education will request that lessons on the European Constitution be given in civic education classes.

LV

The means of communication are seminars and discussions for special target groups, fact sheets, supplements to the daily newspapers as well as information on the websites.

The campaign will be divided in three phases, 1. Covering the signing of the Constitutional Treaty, 2. The ratification process 3. The coming into force of the Constitutional Treaty.

Government has worked out a detailed plan for the first phase, which will include mainly two tasks - proving information to the information distributors and networks and providing general information.

Seminars and discussions planned in Sept and Oct 2004 for the different target groups, including Team Europe – Latvia experts and other lecturers on the EU issues, EU Information Point coordinators, librarians, teachers of the secondary schools, European Clubs, journalists, students.

For the general public: information sheets, information on the websites, a supplement in the main daily newspapers, a poster explaining the structure of the Constitutional Treaty, etc.

These activities will be carried out in close co-operation among the government, the European Commission Representation, the Parliament EU Information Center and NGOs.

LT

Media (TV, radio, press); Public events; Publications; Activities of the Euro information centers, Euro shelves in the libraries; Cooperation with NGO's.

Network of EU Information in Lithuania : 11 EIC, 1 Infocenter of ECD, 1 EIC in Seimas, 48 EU Shelves, 2 Euro Information centers = Total 63 places for information on euro-integration.

Summary of the action plan:

From October to December 2004:

- (In the light of new Parliamentary elections and formation of the new Government) Presentation of the Treaty to new MPs & government officials;
- Various activities related to the signing of the Treaty
- Preparations for the ratification of the Treaty by the Parliament
- A large scale conference in Lithuania on promotion of the Treaty to the public
- Conferences in the regions and in academic institutions.

From January 2005 onward:

- Publication of printed material (brochures, leaflets, books, such as a short version of pocket-size Constitution)
- Special seminars on the Treaty for journalists
- Call for proposals to NGOs to rise public awareness on the Treaty and on Europe
- Documentary TV film on making the Constitution.

LU

Following the latest Euro-barometer, a large majority of EU citizens prefer national TV network and radio stations as privileged sources of information. In Luxembourg, 52 % prefer television and radio broadcasts, 52 % national written press; 45 % people living in Luxembourg wish to be informed through documents or brochures, 24 % through Internet.

The Luxembourg government focuses its communication plan on audiovisual media and on written press. Information brochures are also envisaged. The government website will also play a primary role during the consciousness-raising campaign.

In order to launch a true public debate on the Constitutional treaty, fora and discussion circles will also be organised focussing in particular on raising interest in young citizens.

HU

Information on the Constitution was/is linked to already on-going specific communication tools and projects most applicable. For example:

- a major nation-wide information campaign to be launched in October with the objective of raising awareness on the already existing EU-information sources (Call Center, EIP network) is centred around the Constitution, as an especially timely issue, on which plenty of easily accessible, and easily understandable (!) information is already available;

- A well-publicised, innovative essay competition on the Draft Constitution was launched among university students, the prize-winning essays will be published. The trip to Brussels of the winners of the competition received media coverage;
- the European Information Point network was provided with the necessary background material, tools and training (power point presentations, brochures) to host discussions on the issue in local communities;
- the topic was among those offered in the framework of a call for proposals for EU-oriented actions of NGOs and another CfP for EU-information projects of the media (national, regional, written and audio-visual).

MT

Malta-EU Information Centre is planning the following activities during the rest of 2004 and throughout 2005:

1. National conference with the participation of Maltese and EU personalities sometime in November 2004 after the signing of the Treaty on October 29. The conference would be a follow-up to that held on the draft Constitution in November 2003.
2. Brochure in Maltese and English explaining the Constitution in a question and answer format (with the contribution of the European Parliament's information office in Malta)
3. Short TV and radio info slots explaining important points from the Constitution
4. EU info slots in local newspapers. MIC has already explained in simple terms the Charter of fundamental rights in its daily EU info slot published in the Times.
5. Features in local newspapers. MIC is preparing a series of articles (different for each paper) explaining parts of the Constitution. There would be a series on the institutions, a series of the Charter of fundamental rights, a series on EU policies, a series on the role of national parliaments, a series on how the EU will become closer to the citizen with the new EU Constitution.
6. Five-minute information slots (including a short interview) on some aspect of the Constitution. MIC is currently discussing such an initiative with the public broadcasting services in order to start a series as from October this year.
7. Participation in current affairs programmes on radio and television stations.
8. Suggestion to TV and radio programme presenters to tackle the subject of EU Constitution
9. Roving exhibition in public places (government clinics, local councils, constituted bodies) with posters explaining the Constitution.
10. Comprehensive courses for government employees in collaboration with the staff development organisation at the Office of the Prime Minister.
11. Public dialogues (just one hour) in which a visiting personality or a Maltese personality would try to explain some aspects from the EU Constitution.

AT

Basically, the Federal Chancellery is using the following means of communication:

- Permanent information activities: In order to allow the citizens to directly ask questions on the European Union, the Federal Chancellery has established a charge-free call centre, the so-called "Europatelefon" and the e-mail address europatelefon@bka.gv.at.
- The homepage of the Federal Chancellery, which also provides links to sites containing more detailed information on the Constitution for Europe and the recent enlargement of the EU, is another useful source of information. Besides that, various other government authorities and websites provide information on European topics
- The Federal Press Service regularly publishes information brochures on European issues. The latest publication is a brochure entitled "Eine Verfassung für Europa" ("A Constitution for Europe"), which gives a comprehensive overview over the structure and core elements of the European Constitutional Treaty. Further more, an updated version of the brochure "Europa. Themen 2004" is published yearly. It can be ordered free of charge directly from the Federal Chancellery.
- Large-scale campaigns on major European topics: On the occasion of Austria's accession to the EU, the introduction of the single currency and the EU enlargement, the Austrian Federal Chancellery, in close cooperation with the permanent representations of the European institutions in Austria, launched long-term information campaigns. Vehicles mainly serving for these campaigns are TV-spots and TV-documentaries, radio programmes as well as the internet. These vehicles are supplemented by EU-focussed article-series in newspapers and magazines as well as by specially published information booklets.
- Open Day with exhibition "Europe. The Peace Project" in the state rooms of the Federal Chancellery and the Foreign Ministry on 26 October 2004 (Austria's National Holiday).

PL

Brochures, printed publications and those available in the multimedia, distributed free of charge or added to newspapers and professional press were most frequently used in the previous actions, based on the rule of universality and the largest possible access to information. The brochures and information materials are also available on the Internet.

- information meetings, discussions with experts, conferences and seminars
- youth contests on subjects connected with the contents of the Constitutional Treaty
- calls for proposals addressed to non-governmental organisations
- events and stands in public places
- mass events.

The scale and scope of the above mentioned forms of communication must be larger in the information campaign prior to the referendum, due to large information needs and poor knowledge of the European Constitution.

Every year, the OCEI provides grants for information programmes produced by the media: television, press, radio and the Internet by issuing calls for proposals. The subject of the information is always related to the European Union. In order to reach the biggest number of addressees, direct marketing techniques are also used, including mass events where the OCEI is a direct organiser, initiator, or participant and patron.

This year, the Office of the Committee for European Integration, responding to demand for information, included the issue of the European Constitution in the programme for youth entitled *My school in the European Union*. On the average, every year two thousand schools participate in the programme. It consists of educational actions concerning European integration: training for teachers, providing information folders and leaflets for pupils and teachers; and a contest of writing essays by students. In 2005 the essay will be entitled: *Does Europe need a constitution?* The OCEI will also publish a general information brochure *Twenty questions about the European Constitution*, and a folder entitled: *Yes for the Constitution*.

PT

The final plan has not been approved yet by the Government but it is predicted that there will be a large publicity mass media coverage of the referendum and of the ratification of the Constitutional Treaty itself. Moreover there will be interviews on the press and slogans, information and debates on TV and radio.

The Jacques Delors Center (Centro de Informação Europeia Jacques Delors) is one of the most important Portuguese institutions and an example of the above mentioned cooperation with EU institutions in promoting the numerous initiatives on European Affairs. Its activities include sessions of information, seminars and debates (one of its recent debates was entitled "The participation of the citizens in the European construction"), public actions, brochures, publications, and an internet site. A variety of initiatives are under consideration, in particular, some could be stimulated in association with these Institutions and Portuguese Universities, such as conferences, round tables, etc.

Mass media will also certainly be used as a vehicle of the campaign (TV and radio programs, press). The two public channels have already been broadcasting programs of information on important issues such as the Euro, the European Constitution, or the Enlargement.

Due to its advantages - fast information transmission and interactivity – the Internet will be broadly used. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' web site will be upgraded with information regarding European Communication initiatives, providing the citizens with the opportunity to raise questions and promote the debate on the Constitutional Treaty.

SI

The constitutional treaty will be communicated to the public through:

- Call centre
- Brochures
- Internet
- Regional and local radio & TV stations, press
- Public debates on constitutional treaty
- Day-to-day work with media by providing them all necessary information on the subject., information kit
- Events

SK

For 2004:

- Cooperation with the EU institutions in Slovakia, especially with the European Parliament which is preparing a major campaign on the constitutional treaty.
- Presentation of the constitutional treaty on the governmental web site www.euroinfo.gov.sk, discussion forum for citizens and their opinions
- Preparation of a special training on the constitutional treaty for the Euro Info Center agents.
- Publications (booklet about the constitutional treaty, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; three publications by the EU Publications Office in the Slovak language: a) The Constitution for Europe; b) A guide to citizens c) Constitutional Treaty (text).
- TV and radio programmes
- Information to the public through sponsored programs in the electronic media.

In 2005 are expected a Public opinion poll, a coordinated communication strategy on the treaty, a creative information campaign, use of mass media, as well as below-the-line activities.

FI

The Europe Information website has extensive information on the treaty, the main documents, a discussion forum on EU affairs and links. Later a series of interviews of experts on the Treaty will be published.

There are 20 regional Europe Information points that are open to the public. The citizens are able to receive the following material regarding the Treaty from these info points:

- the text of the Treaty
- a 3-page summary of the Treaty
- a summary of the Nice Treaty
- a 50-page leaflet "What does the constitutional Treaty comprise of?"
- by the end of year a citizens' brochure on the Treaty
- during the spring brochures that focus on special themes of the Treaty

22 public debates will be held during the spring in different regions of the country.
During the winter an exhibition on the Constitution will be put up in Finnish libraries.

SE

The Government sees the media as a very important channel of information to the public. The media has been provided with background information on the constitutional treaty. Besides the activities initiated by the EU 2004 Committee the Government has used different traditional means of communication, i.e. seminars, frequent press briefings and web sites. The Government's newly launched web site for EU affairs was particularly useful at the end of the negotiation. The Swedish media has a long tradition of engaging in public education. Radio and TV has already staged hearings and special programs on the new treaty.

UK

We use several channels of communication: publications, proactive media relations, UK ministerial visits, information events and exhibitions, partnerships and e-communications, including a website. In future work we will look to use all communication means open to us tailoring messages and media to particular audiences.

8. Budget

Some Member States are endowed with a single budget for their communication strategy on ratification.

Some others have not yet allocated a specific budget to the constitutional information campaign, and therefore the identification of the financial means available for this purpose cannot be made at this stage.

Many Member States have the intention to request close co-operation of the European Commission, to act within the framework of the PRINCE programme

BE

Foreseen a single budget for co-ordinated information action on the European Constitution in co-operation with other partners (Communities, Regions, public federal services and planning federal services). The participation of Commission will be requested within the Prince programme (2005 budget). The aim is to make citizens aware of the European construction process and to build up a platform for discussion. Based on previous contacts with partners at European and Belgian level, the financial envelop tied to information actions would be closely linked to communication actions in order to facilitate a closer contact with citizens. This would entail in particular debates in the Communities and the Regions.

CZ

The financial allocations will be made after finishing the political debate concerning the date of the Referendum. In the framework of the first Czech information campaign prior to the referendum on the country's accession to the EU, the Government is expected to release approximately hundreds of thousands Euro.

DE

Information on the European Constitution is part and parcel of the Federal Government's Political Information Agenda. It will be dealt with at numerous events, where constitutional questions are sometimes not the main topic. There is no budget especially allotted to the constitutional information campaign and it is therefore not possible to identify the financial means available to the government or other parties for this purpose.

EE

Financial means to introduce the Constitutional Treaty Agreement are restricted to the aforementioned amount. However, in thinking of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia, opportunities to run additional media projects for this target group are envisaged.

The total budget for introducing the EU was 150 000 EUR in 2004. The total media project budget is 20 800 EUR.

EL

As the specific actions have yet to be decided and properly planned, it is impossible at this moment to give exact figures on the financial means of the campaign. One of the most urgent tasks of the above-mentioned Co-ordination Committee is to identify public and private sources of financing the campaign indicatively from a) Public Investment Program; b) Budgetary resources of relevant ministries; c) Public corporations to be involved; d) National Publicity Program for Tourism and Development Projects.

Needless to say, any information campaigns will seek close cooperation and financial support of the European Institutions.

ES

The Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have between them allocated EUR 6 million to the project. In addition, the Ministry of the Interior has a budget of EUR 80 million to cover the running of all elections in 2005 (polling stations, ballot papers, etc.).

FR

The total budget will be approximately EUR 10 million.

IE

The Referendum Commission established for the Nice II referendum in 2002 spent approximately EUR 4 million. This figure will at least be matched on this occasion. The annual operating budget of the National Forum on Europe is approximately EUR 1 million. The Government is expected to spend approximately EUR 750 000 on the publication and distribution of information materials. In addition, political parties and other organisations, on both sides of the debate, will also incur campaign costs. The Government is legally debarred from spending public money on advocacy.

IT

The financial allocations will be made within the limits of the expenditure forecasts made in the Italian State Budget and in that of the Community institutions. For 2004 funding of EUR 200 000 has been requested and for 2005 a funding amount of EUR 1 750 000.

CY

The specific actions to be carried out by the Cypriot Press and Information Office to inform about the European Constitution between September and December 2004 have an estimated cost of EUR 60 000. Radio and television stations and newspapers will only be granted a token subsidy.

LT

Structure of the budget for 2004: Total financial impact – 250 000 Litas (71 000 €)
(Publications - 30 %; Public events, conferences - 10 %; Cooperation with media, TV – 30 %; Grants for NGO's - 30 %)

LU

The government will allocate the appropriate financial resources to this end (see communication plan).

NL

For its free publicity campaign the government has set aside 100.000 Euro. The larger part of the financial means it has reserved for distributing neutral information through advertisements/website/radio within the scope of the running campaign on Europe. For this purpose an amount of 760.000 Euro has been earmarked. To inform the public on the workings of the referendum, 1.500.000 Euro has been reserved.

Other parties can put in an application to apply the fund of 1.000.000 Euro as described above (see reply to the first question of this Chapter). The financial means of political parties for this purpose are not known at the time.

AT

The Federal Chancellery disposes of a budget of approximately 1,5 mill. Euro for information campaigns on the topic of Europe. Budgetary funds of other Federal ministries (including the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs) or of other local or regional authorities designated for information campaigns are not explicitly designated, but may under certain circumstances also be used for campaigns on European topics.

PL

Since the decision on holding the referendum has not been taken yet, the budget for the information campaign has not been specified. For 2005, the OCEI committed the amount of approximately € 45 000 for the implementation of the programme *My school in the European Union*, including the contest of essays "*Does Europe need a Constitution?*" as well as printing materials and general information on Constitutional Treaty.

PT

Although the financial provisions have not been definitely fixed among the various institutional actors in this process, the Portuguese Government will secure the necessary means in the State Budget.

SI

EUR 52 000.

FI

There is no special budget aimed at information on the Treaty; the finances are included in the normal annual budget. The Government allocates a certain sum each year for NGO's to be used for information work concerning the EU. This sum is 505 000 € for the year 2005 and it is now targeted on information on the Treaty.

SE

The total budget of the EU 2004 Committee (2002-2004), appointed by the Government, is SEK 30 million (about EUR 3,24 million). Three major tools have been used and up to now SEK15 million (about EUR 1,62 million) has been distributed to projects run by or in cooperation with civil society organizations.

UK

Current annual budget for EU communications in FY 2004-2005 is £613,000.

9. Useful websites (governmental and/or others)

The following is a list of relevant addresses and links between websites as provided by delegations

BE

www.belgium.be Website of the Federal Government with information on “Belgium and Europe”

www.diplomatie.be Website of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation with detailed information on the Constitution and the Enlargement.

CZ

www.euroskop.cz Operated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs

www.portal.gov.cz Operated by Ministry of Information

DE

www.deutschland.de, www.deutschland-in-europa.de Governmental Internet portals

www.diplo.de Europa pages of Federal Foreign Office

EE

<http://euro.delfi.ee/>

<http://www.vm.ee/euro/>

<http://www.elis.ee>

<http://www.eib.ee/pages.php/01>

ES

<http://www.nuevo.maec.es> Governmental site with Constitution text and other information about the EU

www.constitucioneuropea.es A website set up specifically on the European Constitution

www.es-ue.org

www.la-moncloa.es

www.maec.es

www.realinstitutoelcano.org/especiales/tratado/tratadoanalisiselcano.asp

FR

www.constitution-europeenne.fr

www.europe.gouv.fr

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

www.info-europe.fr

IE

www.dfa.ie Departmental website with Information on the Constitution

<http://www.nationalforumoneurope.ie>

IT

www.avvenireuropa.it Debate on the future of the European Union

http://www.governo.it/costituzione_europea/index.html Italian Prime Minister's Office

<http://www.politichecomunitarie.it> and <http://www.avvenireuropa.it> and <http://www.cartadeidiritti.net/> Department for Community Policies

http://www.mininterno.it/news/pages/2004/200410/news_000020082.htm and

http://www.esteri.it/ita/0_1_01.asp?id=475 Ministry of the Interior

<http://www.istruzione.it/eventi/ges.shtml> Ministry for Education and Scientific Research

<http://www.infoeuropa.it/> and <http://www.euroinfocentre.it/> Euro Info Centre

http://europa.formez.it/futuro_europa.html FORMEZ

<http://www.comune.roma.it/primopiano/dettaglio.asp?idnews=275548> Municipality of Rome

LV

www.euroinfo.lv Information on the Constitution

LT

www.urm.lt
www.euro.lt

LU

www.gouvernement.lu The government website

MT

www.mic.org.mt Malta- EU Information Centre's web page

AT

Governmental organisations:

www.bundeskanzleramt.at Homepage of the Federal Chancellery
www.eu-verfassung.cv.at Detailed information on the Constitution
www.europa2004.gv.at Information on the enlargement
www.aussenministerium.at Foreign Ministry
www.zukunfteuropa.gv.at
www.erweiterung04.at
www.bmwa.gv.at/BMWA/Themen/Aussenwirtschaft/EU_Erweiterung/default.htm
<http://www.bmf.gv.at/EU/Erweiterung/start.htm>

Non-governmental organisations:

http://portal.wko.at/wk/startseite_ch.wk?AngID=1&ChID=4&DstID=0 - EU-Information der Wirtschaftskammer Österreich
<http://www.wifo.ac.at/> - Wirtschaftsforschungsinstitut
<http://fgr.wu-wien.ac.at/INSTITUT/EF/ief-home.html> - Forschungsinstitut für Europafragen
<http://www.osi.ac.at/> - Österreichisches Ost- und Südosteuropainstitut
<http://www.idm.at> - Institut für den Donaauraum und Mitteleuropa
<http://www.ihs.ac.at/> - Institut für Höhere Studien
<http://www.euro-info.net> - Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik

SI

<http://evropa.gov.si> Information about communication strategy on Constitution, Slovene only

SE

www.regeringen.se The Government Website
www.eu2004.se Website of the Parliamentary EU 2004 Committee
www.eu-upplysningen.se The Swedish Parliament EU information website
www.folkomrostning.nu An EU critical organization that requires a referendum.

SK

www.euroinfo.gov.sk Governmental web site with a presentation of the Constitution

FI

Finnish: <http://www.valtioneuvosto.fi/vn/liston/base.lsp?r=47075&k=fi>

Swedish: <http://www.statsradet.fi/vn/liston/base.lsp?r=47075&k=sv>

English: <http://www.government.fi/vn/liston/base.lsp?r=47075&k=en>

The Government website that presents the main documents, including all the documents that were published during the IGC. A short summary of the Treaty and links are also available.

- Europe Information website/Constitution:

Finnish: <http://www.eurooppa-tiedotus.fi/netcomm/news/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=25553&intIGID=7&CatTypeNumber=2&LAN=FI>

Swedish: <http://www.eurooppa-tiedotus.fi/netcomm/news/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=26431&intIGID=7&CatTypeNumber=2&LAN=SV>

UK

www.europe.gov.uk

**European Parliament resolution on the procedures for ratification of the
Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and
a communication strategy for the said Treaty²**

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, to which the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the European Union gave their agreement on 18 June 2004⁽¹⁾ at the Intergovernmental Conference, on the basis of the text drawn up by the European Convention, and which is due to be signed in Rome on 29 October 2004,

– having regard to Rule 108(5) of the Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the agreement reached on 18 June 2004 is of historical significance and constitutes the first major political act of the enlarged European Union, laying the foundations for a renewed Union based on increased democracy, transparency and efficiency,

B. whereas, in 2005, 60 years after the end of the Second World War and 16 years after the end of the division of Europe, our continent is reconciled in an order of peace and freedom, based on ever closer economic and political integration, of which the European Communities, and subsequently the Union and their successive enlargements, have been the driving force,

C. whereas the Constitution should be presented to Europe's citizens in as clear, fair and understandable a way as possible, clearly emphasising the elements already in force and stressing the new provisions,

- 1) Will deliver its opinion on the constitutional Treaty as soon as possible after it has been signed;
- 2) Calls on the Council to devise a coordinated approach to the timetabling of national ratification procedures and to share best practice in terms of parliamentary scrutiny and referendum campaigning;
- 3) Suggests that the period from 5 to 8 May 2005 might be chosen as a suitable period for holding the planned referenda on the Constitution or the parliamentary ratification in the Member States, as this period would be of symbolic value, both for peace on our continent and for European integration;
- 4) Suggests that the ratification process in all Member States should be accomplished by June 2006;
- 5) Deems it essential to emphasise the European dimension of the draft Constitution in the national ratification procedures in order to increase a shared sense of civic community across the Union;
- 6) Calls on the Council and the Commission to draw up an appropriate campaign and communication strategy; declares its willingness to contribute to this strategy;
- 7) Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

² Adopted by the European Parliament on 14 October 2004.