



European Movement
Mouvement Européen

PRESS RELEASE

One No-vote out of 25 will not defeat the Constitution! The European Movement calls for continued mobilisation for the ongoing ratification process

The European Movement International (EMI) greatly regrets the result of the referendum in which a majority of French voters rejected the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe. It respects this result and commends the commitment and energy displayed by the members of the European Movement France during this difficult campaign.

For the President of the EMI, José Maria Gil-Robles, "this is an unfortunate obstacle in the Treaty ratification process, but over the next two years, it will be crucial to remain mobilised in the Member States which have still to cast their vote".

The Constitution is by no means defeated because the Convention which drafted the Treaty predicted that in the case of a majority vote of states and peoples, the Constitution could enter into force, *even if* some countries voted against it. Indeed, in declaration no.30 annexed to the Constitutional Treaty, it states that if "four fifths of the Member States have ratified the said Treaty and if one or more Member States encountered difficulties in proceeding with ratification, the matter will be referred to the European Council".

The EMI, which since 1998 has sought after and continuously promoted a European Constitution, will analyse the results and the consequences of the French vote at its next Federal Council meeting in Luxembourg, on the 10 and 11 June.

José Maria Gil-Robles rightly states that "it is difficult to promote European integration and to ensure that European citizens adhere to the European project, if our political leaders respond to their fears and discontent by constantly using "Brussels" as a scapegoat".

The Constitution is a fundamental step leading us towards a more united and democratic Europe which should not be skipped. As Jean Monnet, said, "Men only accept change when necessary and they only see this necessity in a crisis".

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