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The “Europe of the citizens”

🕒 4 July 2019 - 💬 2 Comments

The Preamble of a possible Constitution



by Leo Klinkers |

INTRODUCTION

The recent election of the new European Parliament has been described in the media as a cry from 'the Europe of the citizens'. This applies both to the citizens who care about Europe and to those who reject it. But both parties want to develop their own version of 'the Europe of the citizens' in a different way. The opponents are seeking the path of a radical dismantling of the European Union, back to the nation-state anarchy of previous centuries with their inevitable wars. The supporters advocate a radical renewal of European cooperation with improved sovereignty, security and solidarity.

This article offers Europe's supporters a perspective in the form of a Preamble to a federal constitution for a European federation. It gives their version of 'the Europe of the citizens' a soul and a heart.

The Preamble

- We, the citizens of the states [enumeration of participating member states],
- I. Considering:
- a. That the federation of the United States of Europe, which we hereby establish, has the mission and duty to support us as citizens in our quest for happiness in freedom
 - b. That the federation should base the support of our quest for happiness
 - on working restlessly to preserve the diversity of all forms of life on Earth,
 - on unconditional respect for the diversity of sciences, cultures, ethnicities and beliefs of the citizens within the federation,
 - and on human compassion for citizens from outside the federation who want to find their happiness within the United States of Europe;
 - c. That in the execution thereof it should bear witness to wisdom, knowledge, humanity, righteousness and integrity, in full consciousness that it derives its powers from the people, that all men on earth are equal, and that no one is above the law.
- II. Considering furthermore:
- a. That this federal constitution is based on the wealth of ideas, considerations and wishes of European philosophers - and of European political leaders after the Second World War - to unite Europe in a federal form of government;
 - b. That the federal system is based on a vertical separation of powers between the Member States and the federal body through which the Member States and the federal body share sovereignty;
 - c. That the horizontal separation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers (trias politica) both at the level of the federal body and at the level of the Member States is guaranteed by a tight system of checks and balances;
- III. Finally, without prejudice to our right to adjust the political composition of the federal body in elections, we have the inalienable right to remove the authorities from the federation if, in our view, they violate the provisions under I and II,

Establish the following articles for the constitution of the United States of Europe,

Article 1

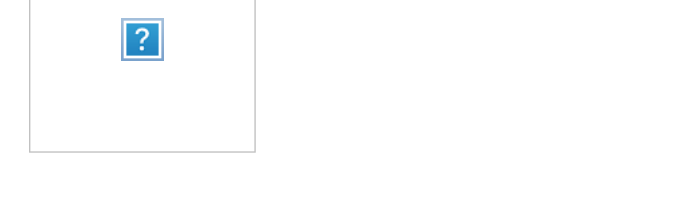
Article 2

And so on.

Final

This Preamble contains the complex of values of the constitution of the United States of Europe. It shows what the United States of Europe stands for.

Then follow the constitution's articles.



Leo Klinkers graduated in 1968 from the Faculty of Law at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. After a few years working in local government, he became responsible for research and education in public administration at the Law Faculty of Utrecht from 1971 until 1983. He wrote his Ph.D. thesis in 1974 on open access to Government documents. Between 1971 and 1983 Leo Klinkers developed a method for interactive bottom-up policymaking. This methodology has been published in a number of books and articles and applied in many projects in the Netherlands and abroad. Since 1983 he has worked as an independent consultant in public administration in several countries, as well as for the EU and the UN. In 2013 he was co-author of the 'European Federalist Papers' with Herbert Tombeur. He recently finished his last book 'Sovereignty, Security and Solidarity, arguing why and how the present intergovernmental administrating system of the EU should be replaced by a federal system and thus creating The United States of Europe, making America Europe's little brother. He is actually a co-founder and member of the Promoting Committee of FAEF (Federal Alliance of European Federalists)

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It sounds like a sort of Heaven! May God help us all to grow up, to understand once for all that perfection is not possible on Earth, that there are and will always be mistakes and steps back or astray, that the most important thing is that we all, or at least a great majority, will become responsible for our lives and the welfare of the planet and of the communities we live in and get involved, deeply involved in everything that occurs around us in our life time. Life is not about expectations only, but about learning from mistakes, being alert and fighting incessantly that a bigger part of the humankind is to live first free and second as safe as possible. The EU is a great happening in Europe's history and I hope that it will grow more and more strong and wise, a blessing for us and for the planet.

Michiel Bijkerk 8 JULY 2019

This is a great initiative. Perhaps Europe should not borrow too much from the US Constitution. For instance, perhaps a system could be worked out in which Europe will have only three political parties, one right-wing, one left-wing and one centrist. And perhaps Europe could expand democracy to include economic democracy. So the first consideration sub letter a could read: "That the federation of the United States of Europe, which we hereby establish, has the mission and duty to support us as citizens in our quest for happiness in political and economic freedom". An explanatory note could explain what economic freedom entails.

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