



**DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL**

**Press Release**

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**Towards more democracy in the EU**

Democracy International welcomes Green Party's proposal for an EU convention

The citizens' movement Democracy International welcomes the Green Party's demand for an EU convention and calls upon all other European political parties to endorse an EU convention ahead of the upcoming European elections in May 2014. The manifesto of the European Green Party (draft version) asks for an EU convention with strong parliamentary and civil society participation. This weekend, the Greens of Germany's most populous state Northrhine-Westfalia also opted for an EU convention.

“As a result of the financial crisis Europe's citizens are completely unsure what the European project is about. Now it is high time to recast Europe up from the ground through a long-term assembly composed of citizens, academics, entrepreneurs, politicians and civil society representatives that all come together to draft a new EU treaty. This blueprint is to be ratified by referenda in all EU member states. An EU convention and EU referenda are the right means for more democracy in the EU and to bring Europe back on track with its citizens” so Erwin Mayer, board member of Democracy International.

Recent polls by the European Commission reveal citizens' dramatic loss of trust in the EU. According to the standard Eurobarometer of spring 2013 about two thirds of all EU citizens have no confidence in the EU. 29 per cent have a negative image of the EU. In 2007 this figure was low at 15 per cent.

“These days we hear reports that European leaders are looking into reforms to the way the EU works, including changes to monetary and banking policy. The EU Lisbon Treaty (Article 48) foresees an EU convention when treaty reforms are underway. In that regard we are extremely pleased to see that political parties in Europe have started calling for an EU convention as well as Democracy International”, states Erwin Mayer.

Democracy International, also the „global coalition for democracy“, is campaigning for campaigning for a more democratic EU. A central demand is an EU convention whose members are elected democratically. Also the convention should have adequate time for serious and thorough deliberation including proposals from civil society. The draft proposal that the EU convention will elaborate is to be ratified by referenda in all EU member states.

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