

London, 7.11.2003

I bring you regards from the northern Member States of the European Union, more particularly Finland.

Our neighbouring country Sweden held a referendum in September on whether to join EMU. They decided, by a clear majority, that they were not going to give up their own currency nor were they going to surrender control of their monetary policy to the monopoly of the supranational European Central Bank.

It was women and young people who tipped the balance in favour of a "no" in Sweden. Of all the first-time voters, 70% wanted to hold on to their national currency.

The referendum was a good vehicle to mobilise the people. They informed themselves on the issues and so the vote was a conscious "no" to EMU. The Swedish example shows us how a referendum can be used as a tool to motivate the people to find out where the political elite is leading their nation. The Swedes did not want their national currency to be replaced by the currency of a federal State.

Where a representative democracy does not correspond to the opinions of the people, direct democracy is required. A referendum is direct democracy.

When the constitution of the European Union says that the new Union reflects the will of the citizens and the states of Europe, we all know that the will of States is measured in the national Parliaments. However, to ensure legitimacy for the draft constitution which was prepared by the so-called Convention on the Future of Europe and which is said to reflect the will of citizens, we also have to gauge the will of the citizens. The only reliable way to do this is to hold a referendum.

The Convention which prepared the draft Constitution was not representative. It was dominated by federalists. This is evident from the final draft produced. The European Union is being federalised. The model does not have the same degree of centralised power as the federal

system in the USA, but then even the USA was not a centrally-governed federal state in 1787. It has evolved into a federal state little by little over a few hundred years. In a similar way, the draft EU constitution provides a base from which to build a European Union federal state. Only states have constitutions and with this new draft constitution, the EU is being transformed into a state. It then becomes a state of states, i.e. a federal state.

Whereas the American constitutional convention wrote six pages into the constitution of the USA, the EU constitutional convention wrote more than 300 pages into the European constitution. The Convention would dictate rules to half a billion Europeans on how they ought to live. . Democracy, however, is not uniformity and similitude, but is rather variety and diversity. We, who were the members of the Convention, know that the draft constitution was dictated from its politburo. It was not prepared in a democratic fashion ; rather a constitution for 500 billion people was dictated from the top down.

We have a duty to protect our democracies and build up a movement for referenda throughout the whole of Europe. We have to mobilise the people to defend their sovereignty.