

## ***Vienna Appeal: »Democratization of the EU to be Formed Now!«***

### **The citizens of the EU should finally be able to exercise their democratic right of sovereignty!**

Now the discussion has started again – by politicians and commentators who claim to voice »public opinion« in the media – how to proceed after the Irish rejection of the so called »Reform Treaty« of the EU.

Civil society in Austria who has organized itself in the »Initiative – Civil Society« and convened in its 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Civil Society on June 14/15<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Vienna, decided to set an impulse and appeal to the citizens of all member states, to take action themselves and no longer watch passively or simply complain about the future development of the European Union.

#### **I.**

**Our Continent is ready for a really democratic constitution!** We no longer want to be held on short strings by the Bonapartists of all classes and castes and simply be commanded about by the decisions which they have concocted in their political exchanges i.e. the parliaments. This cannot be the peak of democracy, the way it can and should manifest itself – when referring to democracy as such!

**No:** We should no longer accept that the *principle of people's sovereignty* – i.e. the basic equal title to sharing the »power« in society – is disputed endlessly. This after all has been accepted as the fundament of democracy ever since 1789 and should be valid in the future, as stated in Art. 1 of the Austrian Constitution: **The Law shall be derived from the People, from the legal community.** This, however, should no longer simply exist on paper, as an abstract title. It must be expressed and organized constitutionally – *in terms of our times – in three axioms:*

**1. Initiatives** as organized by the citizens shall be entitled to file at any given time generally binding legal proposals or other political regulations with parliamentary representations, i.e. the representative/democratic organs.

*1.a. The proposal filed by the Initiative must be signed by at least 1 million EU-citizens eligible to vote.*

*1.b. If the proposal is accepted by the majority of the competent organ – in this case the EU Parliament – within the period of ½ year, it shall enter into force.*

**2. If the proposal is rejected, the Initiative can start a **citizens' petition for a plebiscite.** This must be signed within one year by the proper number of citizens eligible to vote. (see pt. 3).**

*2.a. The collection process of the signatures on this petition is open and will be defined by the Initiative itself. The lists shall be available at all government/administrative institutions.*

*2.b. During the second half-year of the campaign all mass media – such as press, radio and TV – shall be obliged to report equally on the pros and cons of the petition. The scope of this democratic part of the information- and discussion process in society necessary for the citizens to form their opinion, shall be agreed upon by a joint council of representatives of the Initiative as well as media representatives and shall be moderated by the presidency of the EU-Commission (= **Media Condition**).*

**3. If the citizens' petition is accepted properly – a quorum could be defined as equalling 10 million signatures EU-wide from at least 7 member countries – this results in a **citizens' decree (plebiscite).** This must enter into force within 6 – 12 months following the successful conclusion of the petition.**

*3.a. While the decree is pending, the procedure as stated in 2.b. shall apply (Media Condition).*

*3.b. Whatever the majority of voters and the majority of member states has decided upon, shall become legally binding. There shall be no quorum of participation.*

## II.

**The European Union has again and again encountered crises in the course of its development which is due to the fact that its constitution has ignored the overdue *initiative- and right to vote*.**

In this new crisis scenario resulting from – as all previous crises – this very ignorance, the Irish vote against the so called Reform Treaty has only revealed anew this democratic deficit. – **We therefore appeal to all citizens of the European Union to take action and vehemently support the impulse and the request of Austrian Civil Society that the 3-phase legislation by the people be laid down in the constitution. This is the only way to create the Europe that its people have strived for, a Europe that will serve peace, freedom, democracy and real social progress world wide.**

## III.

We can achieve this goal if we mobilize all European citizens with all possible means to voice their profound democratic intentions vis-a-vis the European Parliament and the Commission of the EU in such a way that these political »elites« can no longer ignore it. Today the internet makes it possible to put this into practice in enabling us **to establish the → *Expression of Will by all citizens* as an instrument to be signed EU-wide and thus achieve our first goal – i.e. the integration of the 3-step people's legislation in the Constitution Treaty as demanded by the Vienna Appeal.**

It will then become apparent which total of votes – see [www.initiative-zivilgesellschaft.at/wiener-appell](http://www.initiative-zivilgesellschaft.at/wiener-appell) – will suffice that the democratic power of the citizens resulting from this process will force those who still consider themselves as almighty to give in.

**If we agree on this common goal and combine our efforts ignoring all earlier differences, this will result in a great democratic movement in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and we will succeed in drawing the proper consequences from the horrors of the previous century.**

It is all a question of »music«. It is reported from ancient times that trumpets caused the walls of Jericho to collapse. Those were the times of war. But we can also express it in a more peaceful-poetic way as for instance the poet *Joseph von Eichendorff* who wrote in 1935: »*There is a song dormant in all things, quietly dreaming on and on, but the world will start to sing if you find the magic word*«.

*Politics by magic words* – this is the impulse of the Vienna Appeal. We must be grateful to the Irish people that they have awakened us with their NO. They will certainly support a renewed effort preventing EU citizens from being overruled by a »take it or leave it« policy, but enabling them to become sovereign political subjects in the future based on the *3-step direct democracy* with the initiative- and right to vote by the people and the Media-Condition, all aimed at a free society and free discourse.

This would be a first step away from this pseudo liberal, pseudo democratic and pseudo social Europe which was established by the old traditional political powers from all political quarters. As a legal union we want to take the steering wheel into our own hands now and in the future determine and pursue a course based on common interest and responsibility towards our goal in its entirety.

Now it is up to each individual to contribute his or her share. The power rests with the citizens, it is up to us to seize it!

Vienna, 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Civil Society, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

[www.initiative.zivilgesellschaft.at/wiener-appell](http://www.initiative.zivilgesellschaft.at/wiener-appell)