

Postulates for a European Reform Treaty

by Markus C. Kerber

1. The ambiguous position of the Commission as a legislator, administrator of law, Guardian of the Treaties and exclusive representative of commercial policy does no longer fit in with the balance of powers in the EU.
2. We therefore need
 - first a countervailing power applying the principle of subsidiarity with vigour and if necessary with rigidity: A European Senate to be elected directly by equal democratic vote should be entitled to veto initiatives by the Commission obviously not in line with that overruling pillar of European law outlined in Art. 5 III of the EU Treaty.
 - second: the restriction of the Commission's competence to essential tasks of European integration. Tourism and sports are good examples of redundant competences of the Commission. The European Foreign Service should be strictly limited to secretarial functions and therefore limited in size.
3. The reform of the European Parliament – to be outlined in more detail by Mr. Eppink as a former MEP - should be inspired by a stronger influence of national MPs to be delegated to the EP. Thus democratic legitimacy and accountability can be improved.
4. The Legal Service should become a DG independent of the President of the Commission.
5. To mark the fundamental character of the European Reform Treaty we should rebaptize the EU by calling it “European Community”. This will clarify the nature of the EU:
Europe must become a confederation of Nations instead of a Federal state.
This objective is already audacious. If we claim more, the risk of collapse cannot be avoided.