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COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
- THE CHAIRMAN -

303757 22.03.2006

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Francesco e Anna Maria Crescenti Secretaries General SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER Consilium Internationale Via Pomponia Grecina, 31 I-0145 Roma	Encarnación del Pozo Minister General SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
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SEGRETERIATO INTERNAZIONALE	
O. F. S.	
DATA	29/03/06
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Dear Secretaries General, dear Minister General,

Your letter of 10 November 2005 to the President of the European Parliament concerning the Constitution of the European Union has been referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and was considered by the coordinators of this committee at their meeting on 15 March 2006.

In the first place, I would like to thank you for the attention which you are giving to the constitutional process of the European Union. Spiritual forces play an important role in creating awareness that political integration is needed in order to maintain an order of peace, freedom, justice and solidarity on our continent.

In its resolution of 13 January 2005¹ the European Parliament affirmed that the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, taken as a whole, is a good compromise and a vast improvement on the existing treaties, which will bring about tangible benefits for citizens.

Parliament, however, was conscious that the Constitutional Treaty has been object of some criticism voiced in public debate which does not reflect its real content. Notably it does not ignore the historical and spiritual roots of Europe, since it refers to its cultural, religious and humanist inheritance.

¹ See enclosure 1

In the light of the difficulties which the process of ratification of the Constitutional Treaty faces following the referendums held in France and The Netherlands, the European Parliament, in its resolution of 19 January 2006¹ recalling the endorsement of this treaty, has confirmed its commitment to achieving a constitutional settlement for the European Union. It has called on all parts of Europe's civil society to engage in the debate on the future of Europe during the present period of reflection in order to overcome the constitutional crisis.

I very much hope that you can support these efforts to achieve a constitutional settlement for Europe's coming generations, under the Constitution's formula 'Unity in Diversity'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Leinen', written in a cursive style.

Jo LEINEN

¹ See enclosure 2