



CELSIG



Conference of the Presidents of the European Parliament

To:

Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, President
Mr. Hans-Gert Poettering, Chairman, PPE-DE
Mr. Martin Schulz, Chairman, PSE
Mr. Graham R. Watson, Chairman, ALDE/ADLE
Ms. Monica Frassoni, Co-President, Verts/ALE
Mr. Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Co-President, Verts/ALE
Mr. Francis Wurtz, Chairman, GUE/NGL
Mr. Jens-Peter Bonde, Co-President, IND/DEM
Mr. Nigel Paul Farage, Co-President, IND/DEM
Mr. Brian Crowley, Co-President, UEN
Ms. Cristiana Muscardini, Co-President, UEN

REF.: Joint letter 28.06.05

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Subject: White Paper on Services of General Interest (COM(2004)374) – rapid decision on lead committee of the European Parliament required!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are deeply concerned that the European Parliament is apparently not in a position to agree which Committee should take the lead in producing a report on the Commission's White Paper on Services of General Interest. If this situation is not resolved quickly then there is the acute risk that the ongoing debate on the draft Services Directive will supersede any further debates on a legal framework in favour of Services of General Interest. It might indeed be assumed that this is the deliberate intention of some members of the European Parliament. This position is however untenable. It goes against the spirit of the resolution (Herzog Report A5-0000/2003) adopted by the European Parliament in January 2004 in a cross-party compromise. It may damage the credibility of the European Parliament if this row over competences continues and no follow-up action is taken on the Herzog Report.

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The signatories to this letter reiterate their demand for a positive legal initiative. The delay of the European Parliament to designate the lead committee on the White Paper is discouraging for the organisations we represent. It interrupts unnecessarily the consultation process in which hundreds of other organizations have contributed in a positive way. Urgent action is required because legal security is needed for citizens, enterprises, authorities and employees.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
EPSU General Secretary

Eduardo Chagas
ETF General Secretary

Martin Romer
ETUCE General Secretary

Rainer Plassman
CEEP General Secretary

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