

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

2007/2218(ACI) - 29/11/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Jo **LEINEN** (PES, DE), and approved the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which is annexed to the resolution. The report was adopted by 534 votes in favour to 85 against with 21 abstentions. Parliament gave a mandate to its President to solemnly proclaim the Charter, before the signature of the Treaty of Lisbon, jointly with the President of the Council of the European Union and the President of the Commission.

To recall, the Charter of Fundamental Rights sets out in a single text the civil, political, social and economic rights of Union citizens and of all those that reside in the EU.

These rights are divided into six sections:

- dignity;
- freedoms;
- equality;
- solidarity;
- citizens' rights;
- justice.

The European Council of 2007 had decided not to include the text of the Charter in the new Treaty. The Council's mandate to the IGC stipulated that the Charter should be annexed to the Treaty in the form of a declaration. However, Parliament stated that by confirming the legally binding status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the draft Treaty of Lisbon has safeguarded the substance of the major achievement represented by Part II of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

Parliament also recalled the main points of its resolution of 11 July 2007 on the convocation of the IGC of (please refer to CNS/2007/0808) in which welcomed the fact that the IGC mandate safeguarded the legally binding status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, while expressing its strong concerns about the Protocol on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union to Poland and to the United Kingdom, which seeks to limit the justiciability of the Charter in certain Member States. In the same resolution, Parliament had stressed its intention to scrutinise carefully the outcome of the 2007 IGC, when it will give its opinion on the Treaty of Lisbon after the latter has been signed.

Through an amendment moved by the Greens/ALE group and approved in plenary by 477 votes for, 106 against and 35 abstentions, Parliament urged Poland and the United Kingdom to make every effort to arrive, after all, at a consensus on the unrestricted applicability of the Charter.

On 12 December in Strasbourg, the European Parliament holds a ceremony on the proclamation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The charter will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.