


# Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1996/2140(INI)
Participation in the institutional system by social representatives and citizens in the framework of the IGC 1996	
Subject	
1.20.01 Political rights, right to vote and to stand in elections	
8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>INST</b> Institutional Affairs		29/05/1996
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">HERZOG Philippe A.R.</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>REGI</b> Regional Policy		

Key events			
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/10/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
28/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0338/1996</a>	
09/12/1996	Debate in Parliament		
10/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0662/1996	Summary
10/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/01/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2140(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INST/4/08097

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0338/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0005</a>	28/10/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0662/1996 <a href="#">OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0020-0031</a>	10/12/1996	EP	Summary

## Participation in the institutional system by social representatives and citizens in the framework of the IGC 1996

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The report by Mr Philippe HERZOG on the participation of social representatives and other citizens in the institutional system of the European Union, which was adopted by the Committee on Institutional Affairs, declared that European citizens should not be dissociated from the democratic debate. The Committee was convinced that if the EU wanted its citizens to participate in European integration, it should pledge itself to this both as a social Union and as an economic Union. In this respect the Committee on Institutional Affairs recalled the position which Parliament had adopted in favour of the immediate incorporation in the Treaty of the basic principles of the Charter of Fundamental Social Rights. In order to allow citizens greater involvement in debating problems of common interest to the EU, the report proposed that the Treaty should provide for an annual conference to be held within the framework of a plenary session of the European Parliament, with the participation of the Council and the Commission. In order to prepare its position on this, Parliament would audition representatives from the Economic and Social Committee and from the Committee of the Regions. In addition, the Herzog report recalled that the right to information in all its aspects - education, the sharing of knowledge, communication between citizens and between citizens and institutions - was vital for the proper exercise of democracy and reiterated the importance of transparency in respect of EU institutions. The report advocated that the Treaty should incorporate a general principle proclaiming the right of each citizen and representative organisation to express their opinion and to have this opinion heard. The Treaty should also give each citizen the right to receive, either directly or indirectly, replies to questions which have been raised, without this necessarily implying any direct involvement in decision taking. It also called for a reinforcement of social dialogue within the general framework of a social policy which would allow both arms of the legislature to play their role to the full. ?

## Participation in the institutional system by social representatives and citizens in the framework of the IGC 1996

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In adopting the report by Mr Philippe HERZOG (GUE/NGL, F) on the participation of citizens and social representatives in the institutional system of the European Union, the European Parliament declared that European citizens should not be dissociated from the democratic debate. Parliament was convinced that if the European Union wanted its citizens to participate in European integration, it should pledge itself to this both as a social Union and as an economic Union. In this respect it called for the essential principles of the Charter of Fundamental Social Rights to be incorporated immediately in the Treaty and for a new Committee on Employment to be set up alongside the Monetary Committee which would allow consultation with the social partners. The Treaty should also provide for an annual debate to be held on economic policy guidelines, this debate to be preceded by a preliminary conference of the European Parliament. The report also called for: - the inclusion in the Treaty of a general principle proclaiming the right of all citizens and all representative organisations to express their opinion and to have this opinion heard; - each citizen to be given the right, under the Treaty, to receive replies to questions which have been raised; - the reinforcement of social dialogue; - an initiative in favour of a reduction in working hours; - an electoral system which brings elected representatives and citizens closer together by combining the principles of proportional representation and territorial subdivision; - the establishment of common rules for Members of the European Parliament. ?