


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2000/2160(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Constitutionalisation of the treaties		
Subject 8.30 Treaties in general		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>AFCO</b> Constitutional Affairs		06/07/2000
		PSE <a href="#">DUHAMEL Olivier</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
08/09/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
11/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0289/2000</a>	
24/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
25/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0466/2000</a>	Summary
25/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/07/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2160(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	AFCO/5/13597

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0289/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0008</a>	11/10/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T5-0466/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0111-0186</a>	25/10/2000	EP	Summary

## Constitutionalisation of the treaties

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The committee adopted the report by Olivier DUHAMEL (PES, F) on the constitutionalisation of the Treaties, seeking essentially to clarify this concept, which had been the subject of widely diverging interpretations. The committee believed that the aim was to integrate the fundamental values of the Union, the rights of its citizens and the organisation of its institutions into a constitutional text able to serve as a reference text for the citizens of the EU. To achieve this it proposed a two-stage method and a timetable. The first stage would involve recasting the texts to make the ends and means of European integration more easily understandable, in order to meet public demand for democracy, transparency and simplicity. It therefore proposed that the current Treaties be replaced by a single, readable and brief framework treaty which would contain only the fundamental provisions of a constitutional nature (the goals of the Union, the protection of fundamental rights, citizenship, the allocation and distribution of powers and institutional matters). Other provisions, such as those governing common policies, would be placed in protocols annexed to the treaty. The second stage would have as its goal the adoption of a text containing all the matters characteristic of a genuine constitution of the Union. Such a constitution would lay down clearly the common values of the EU, the fundamental rights of European citizens (the Charter of Fundamental Rights could form the first chapter of the Constitution), the principles of the separation of powers and the rule of law, the composition, role and functioning of the Union's institutions, etc. The procedure followed by the Convention which drew up the Charter of Fundamental Rights could, duly adapted, serve as a model for drafting the Constitution, which, the committee urged, should be adopted before the European elections in 2004. To reassure the candidate countries, the report stressed that under no circumstances should these proceedings be used as an excuse for blocking or delaying the accession process and that representatives of the candidate countries should take part in the proceedings. In addition, it underlined the role that would have to be played by national parliaments in stimulating public debate throughout the procedure. ?

## Constitutionalisation of the treaties

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution on closer cooperation, based on Mr Jose Maria Gil-ROBLES Gil-DELGADO's (EPP-ED,E) report. MEPs voted 408 to 63 with 57 abstentions. In adopting the resolution, the European Parliament stated that when instituting closer cooperation, it is essential to respect the principle of budgetary unit. The Union budget must provide a structure incorporating revenue and expenditure to permit entering of the expenditure incurred; such appropriations should not be counted under the threshold for own resources and the financial perspective. Lastly, the implementing arrangements could be defined in the context of a new interinstitutional agreement and the revision of the Financial Regulation. ?