ASA 2006 - MANIFESTO

We all want Europe to move forward – but how?

1. The debate on, and the ratification process of, the Constitutional Treaty has to continue. By 2008, the most crucial features of the constitutional text should be adopted through an intergovernmental process to improve the functioning of the EU with immediate effect.

2. Immigration is an opportunity and not a threat. We propose the creation of a common database of labour opportunities for immigrants to match supply with demand taking into account the current demographic situation, and a dual strategy to both integrate immigrants into the host society and prevent xenophobia. To deal with problems stemming from external immigration, and the free movement of people internally, the EU urgently requires a common immigration, integration and visa policy. This should include enhanced cooperation with the main emigration states.

3. Member states should be encouraged to comply with the Lisbon objective of dedicating 3% of the annual state budget to Research & Development.

4. Unemployment needs to be addressed more efficiently by increased cooperation both between national employment agencies and at European level. In creation of new jobs the EU needs to avoid race to the bottom, quality jobs should be created. Member states should find the political will to embark on comprehensive structural reforms of their national labour markets in order to make them more flexible. We support the creation of a European Globalization Adjustment Fund for workers and professionals laid off as a result of open trade. EU should encourage member states to assure equal access to compulsory education until 18 and the elimination of child labour, guaranteed by effective control measures.

5. We propose increased cooperation between the European member states to guarantee the security of energy supply in a sustainable way.

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