

# Convention on the Future of Europe

## *OMCT Contribution*

### *“For an Efficient and Coherent European Human Rights Policy”*

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#### Summary

Since the beginning, human rights have constituted the cornerstone of European construction and an indispensable dimension to maintain peace and stability in Europe. And yet we cannot but assess that there has been a growing dichotomy between declarations and practices of the EU in this regard, and that such a dichotomy has caused this human rights dimension to get marginalized vis-à-vis political, economic and security-related considerations.

Given the EU's prevailing role in its people's daily life and its growing weight on the international level, it is fundamental it completely reintegrate the human rights dimension. This means, on the internal level, not only an effective integration of human rights norms but also setting up an external system to control activities and measures adopted by the EU. This also means that a real coherence between internal and external policies must be achieved, the latter having human rights protection as main focus and reference.

If one should hail the importance given to human rights promotion and defence in the European construction on the European as well as on the global level, numerous improvements remain to be achieved to reduce the excessive and growing gap existing between declarations and practice. The European human rights policy, to remain credible, has to become more coherent and efficient.

The Convention on the Future of the EU represents a unique opportunity to concretise more than fifty years of commitment for peace, stability and the protection of the fundamental rights of all. The OMCT praises the opportunity that is offered to civil society to contribute in that debate, and requests the present Convention to do everything in its power so that :

- The European Union adhere to the **European Convention on Human Rights**, as soon as possible and with no reservations ;
- The European Union adhere to the **Revised European Social Charter**, as well as to all existing international human rights mechanisms, as soon as possible and with no reservations ;

- The **Charter of Fundamental Human Rights of the European Union be amended before being integrated**, so that matters relating to non-discrimination, promotion and protection of children and family as well as migrant workers rights be fully taken into consideration ;
- A particular attention be given to **the rights of women, children, migrant and all vulnerable groups** ;
- Concrete monitoring mechanisms be set up **to make human rights clauses operational** , which would allow to assess the implementation of such clauses and/or to take effective measures so as to put an end and to prevent serious human rights violations ;
- Human rights become the cornerstone of EU's external policy, with a particular attention to be paid to the implementation of underogatable human rights such as the right to life and to protection against torture.

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