

# Letter to the Editor

## The Financial Times, London

we, the undersigned, [from universities and Think Tanks in Europe] unite in rejecting the agreement reached by Heads of State or Government on the proposed constitution for the European Union. We call on the peoples of the Union to withhold ratification through their parliamentary representatives or through referenda.

First, the proposed constitution paves the way for ever-more matters to be decided at an ever-increasing distance from the citizen. Instead of trying to provide a clear focus on what the Union can do best and leave the rest to member states and their regions the constitution opens doors for the Union to pre-empt the role of other jurisdictions in an increasing number of fields.

Secondly, the proposed constitution opens up numerous new avenues for increased regulation in Europe. It would undermine Europe's competitiveness in the world economy. Europe needs less regulation not more.

Thirdly, by centralising policy-making, the proposed constitution gives the state more power over the citizens and suppresses international differences in preferences and needs. The centralising dynamic has to be checked by institutions which do not have a vested interest in centralisation.

Fourthly, the fundamental purpose of a constitution to base the rules of political association on popular assent cannot be achieved with such a complicated and ambiguous document. Crucially important matters such as whether or not the Union has the power to tax or how the Charter of Rights is to be applied have been left deliberately obscure or have become hopelessly overcomplicated.

We do not deny that the proposed constitution contains some positive elements. But on balance it clearly makes things worse. It pushes people still further away from those who exercise power in their name. It must be rejected.

This letter has been signed by more than one hundred university teachers and members of think tanks.

### SIGNATORIES

Mark Baimbridge, Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of Bradford  
Prof. Norman Barry, Dept. of Politics, University of Buckingham, London  
Prof. Peter Bohley, em. Professor of Economics, University of Zürich  
Prof. Philip Booth, Editorial Director, Institute of Economic Affairs, London  
John Blundell, Director General, Institute of Economic Affairs, London  
PD Dr. Hardy Bouillon, Philosophy, University of Trier

Keith Boyfield, Keith Boyfield Associates, London  
 Prof. David Conway, Senior Research Fellow, Civitas, London  
 Prof. Victoria Curzon-Price, Professor of Economics, University of Geneva  
 Dr. Gert Dahlmanns, Special Advisor to the President, Zeppelin University  
 Friedrichshafen  
 Dr. Hugo Dicke, Institute for World Economics, Kiel  
 Prof. Jürgen B. Donges, Professor of Economics, University of Cologne  
 Ondrej Dostal, Director, Conservative Institute of M.R. Stefanik, Bratislava  
 Prof. Kevin Dowd, Nottingham University Business School  
 Prof. Reinhard Eichenberger, Professor of Economics, University of  
 Fribourg  
 Prof. Norbert Eickhoff, Professor of Economics, University of Potsdam  
 Prof. Gisela Färber, Professor of Economics, Deutsche Hochschule für  
 Verwaltung, Speyer  
 Prof. Ulrich Fehl, Professor of Economics, University of Marburg  
 Prof. Lars Feld, Professor of Economics, University of Marburg  
 Prof. Anthony Flew, em. Professor of Philosophy, University of Reading  
 Prof. Cay Folkers, Professor of Economics, University of Bochum  
 Prof. Vincente Font Pascual, IESE, University of Navarra  
 Prof. James Foreman-Peck, Professor of Welsh Economic Research, Cardiff  
 Business School  
 Prof. Hans-Hermann Francke, Professor of Economics, University of Freiburg  
 Prof. Andreas Freytag, Professor of Economics, University of Jena  
 Prof. Clemens Fuest, Professor of Economics, University of Cologne  
 Prof. Otto Gandenberger, Professor of Economics, University of Munich  
 Prof. Carlos Garcia Pont, IESE Business School, University of Navarra  
 Prof. Nuno Garoupa, Associate Professor, New University of Lisbon  
 Prof. Carlo Giannone, Siena delle Finanze, University of Samnio  
 Prof. Herbert Giersch, retired President of Institute for World Economics, Kiel  
 Peter Gonda, Conservative Institute of M.R. Stefanik, Bratislava  
 Dr. David G. Green, Director, Civitas, London  
 Prof. Hans Peter Grüner, Professor of Economics, University of Mannheim  
 Prof. Gerd Habermann, Economics, University of Potsdam  
 Martin Hanus, Conservative Institute of M.R. Stefanik, Bratislava  
 Lord Harris of High Cross, Institute of Economic Affairs, London  
 Prof. Ernst Helmstädter, em. Professor of Economics, University of Münster  
 Prof. Klaus-Dirk Henke, Professor of Economics, Technical University Berlin  
 Prof. Stefan Homburg, Professor of Economics, University of Hannover  
  
 Prof. Helmut Karl, Professor of Economics, University of Bochum  
 Radovan Kazda, Conservative Institute of M.R. Stefanik, Bratislava  
 Prof. Claus D. Kernig, em. Professor of Political Science, University of Trier  
 Prof. Henning Klodt, Institute for World Economics, Kiel  
 Prof. Günter Knieps, Professor of Economics, University of Freiburg  
 Dr. Oliver Knipping, President, Institute for Free Enterprise, Berlin  
 Prof. Ulrich Koester, Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Kiel  
 Prof. Horst Kurth, em. Professor of Statistics and Economics, University of  
 Kassel  
 Prof. Hans Albin Larsson, Professor of History, Jönköping University  
 Ruth Lea, Director, Centre for Policy Studies, London  
 Prof. Hans Otto Lenel, em. Professor of Economics, University of Mainz

Prof. Jonas Ljungberg, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Economic History,  
University of Lund

Prof. Helga Luckenbach, em. Professor of Economics, University of Giessen

Dr. Petr Mach, Executive Director, Centrum pro ekonomiku u politiku, Prague

Prof. Kenneth Minogue, em. Professor of Political Science, University of London  
(L.S.E.)

Prof. Dennis C. Mueller, Professor of Economics, University of Vienna

Prof. Peter Oberender, Professor of Economics, University of Bayreuth

Prof. Karl Meessen, Jean Monnet Professor of Law, University of Jena

Prof. Patrick Minford, Professor of Economics, Cardiff Business School

Prof. Hans G. Monissen, em. Professor of Economics, University of Würzburg

Prof. Hans H. Nachtkamp, em. Professor of Economics, University of  
Mannheim

Dr. Peter Osusky, vice-rector, Comenius University of Bratislava

Lord Pearson of Rannoch, Global Britain, London

Prof. Gerard Radnitzky, em. Professor of Philosophy, University of Trier

Prof. Ivar Raig, Audentes University Tallinn, Chair of the Board, Institute for  
European Studies and Research Centre Free Europe

Prof. Rudolf Richter, em. Professor of Economics, University of Saarland

Prof. Carlos Rodriguez Braun, University Complutense, Madrid

Dalibor Rohac, Institute for a Free Society, Bratislava

Prof. Juan Roure, IESE Business School, University of Navarra

Prof. Hans H. Rupp, em. Professor of Law, University of Mainz

Prof. Karlhans Sauernheimer, Professor of Economics, University of Munich

Prof. Wolf Schäfer, Professor of Economics, Helmut-Schmidt-University  
Hamburg

Prof. Wolfgang Scherf, Professor of Economics, University of Giessen

Prof. Jürgen Schröder, Professor of Economics, University of Mannheim

Prof. Alfred Schüller, Professor of Economics, University of Marburg

Prof. Pedro Schwartz, Professor of Economics, Uni San Pablo-CEU, Madrid

Prof. Gerhard Schwödiauer, Professor of Economics, University of  
Magdeburg

Prof. Friedrich L. Sell, Professor of Economics, University of the Armed  
Forces Munich

Prof. Jürgen Siebke, Professor of Economics, University of Heidelberg

Dusan Sloboda, Conservative Institute of M.R. Stefanik, Bratislava

Prof. Karl Socher, em. Professor of Political Economy, University of Innsbruck

Prof. Theodor Siegel, Professor of Business, Humboldt University Berlin

Gabriel Stein, Director, Lombard Street Research Ltd., London

Prof. Manfred E. Streit, Max Planck Institute for Research into Economic  
Systems, Jena

Dr. Janez Sustersic, Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development,  
Ljubljana

Sascha Tamm, Research Fellow, Liberal Institute, Friedrich Naumann  
Foundation, Potsdam

Richard Teather, Senior Lecturer in Tax Law, Bournemouth University

Prof. Rafael Termes, IESE Business School, University of Navarra

Prof. Georg Tolkemitt, em. Professor of Economics, University of Hamburg

Prof. Harald Uhlig, Professor of Economics, Humboldt University Berlin

Prof. Victor Vanberg, Professor of Economics, University of Freiburg  
Prof. Stefan Voigt, Professor of Economics, University of Kassel  
Prof. Casper de Vries, Professor of Economics, Erasmus University  
Rotterdam  
Prof. Christian Watrin, em. Professor of Economics, University of Cologne  
Prof. Rolf Weder, Dept. of Economics and Europe Institute, University of  
Basel  
Prof. Erich Weede, Professor of Sociology, University of Bonn  
Dr. Horst Werner, Liberal Institute, Potsdam  
Prof. Franz-Ulrich Willeke, em. Professor of Economics, University of  
Heidelberg  
Prof. Hans Willgerodt, em. Professor of Economics, University of Cologne  
Prof. Artur Woll, em. Professor of Economics, University of Siegen  
Prof. Peter Zajac, Conservative Institute of M.R. Stefanik, Bratislava  
Prof. Michael Zöllner, Professor of Sociology, University of Bayreuth  
Prof. Peter Zweifel, Professor of Economics, University of Zürich

These signatures have been invited by the European Constitutional Group:

Prof. Peter Bernholz, em. Professor of Economics, Centre of Economics &  
Business (WWZ), University of Basel  
Prof. Charles B. Blankart, Professor of Economics, Humboldt University Berlin  
Prof. Francisco Cabrillo, Chairman, Dept. of Applied Economics IV, University  
Complutense, Madrid  
Prof. Jean-Pierre Centi, Centre d'Analyse Economique, Aix-en-Provence  
Dr. Detmar Doering, Director, Liberal Institute, Friedrich Naumann Foundation,  
Potsdam  
Dr. habil. Lüder Gerken, Director, Hayek Foundation, Freiburg  
Prof. Christian Kirchner, Professor of Law, Humboldt University  
Berlin  
Dr. Elena Leontjeva, Founder and Chair of Board, Lithuanian Free Market  
Institute, Vilnius

Prof. Angelo M. Petroni, Professor of Philosophy, University of Bologna  
Prof. Joachim Rückert, Professor of Law, University of Frankfurt  
Prof. Pascal Salin, University of Paris 9 Dauphine  
Prof. Friedrich Schneider, Professor of Economics, Johannes Kepler University  
Linz  
Dr. Jiri Schwarz, President, Liberal Institute, Prague  
Peter Stein, CEO, Stein Brothers AB, Stockholm  
Prof. Roland Vaubel, Professor of Economics, University of Mannheim  
Frank Vibert, Director, European Policy Forum, London  
Prof. Jan Winiecki, President of Polish Society of Economists (TEP)