

## RESOLUTION 127<sup>1</sup>

### *on parliamentary debates and public opinion on European integration*

The Assembly,

- (i) Recalling Resolution 123 of 29 November 2004 inviting the national parliaments to make more effort to inform the electorate so as to ensure that people are in full possession of the facts and are able to weigh up the issues when voting on proposals concerning the future of Europe;
- (ii) Noting that the EU's drop in popularity in public opinion is having the effect of slowing down the process of integration, which had nonetheless been making good progress until the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe was drawn up;
- (iii) Considering that the European Union has to continue to function in its present configuration and that the negative messages emanating from referendums and opinion polls may put up an obstacle to the smooth running of programmes under way;
- (iv) Stressing the responsibility of national parliamentarians for ensuring that the wishes of the electorate are reflected in the political decisions taken by governments at European summits,

#### INVITES THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS TO:

1. Endeavour to inform the public about issues concerning the future of Europe and to restore the electorate's confidence in the integration process while stressing that the problems encountered in present-day society should be considered in the context of the major progress the European Union has achieved;
2. Step up efforts to provide the explanations necessary for winning the support of public opinion for proposed changes that take due account of the new context regarding EU integration and enlargement;
3. Draw attention to the progress the EU has made in the area of security and defence in order to place more emphasis on the positive results achieved through joint actions, about which the public at large has little or no knowledge;
4. Support continuity of the work done by the Assembly of WEU, the sole European interparliamentary forum in which national parliamentarians collectively monitor European security and defence policy;
5. Ensure that national debates include the European dimension so that future generations automatically share common concepts and values, which constitute the only guarantee of a stable basis for the European institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Explanatory Memorandum: see the report tabled on behalf of the Committee on Parliamentary and Public Relations by Lord Russell-Johnston, Rapporteur (United Kingdom, Liberal Group) and Viliija Aleknaite, co-Rapporteur (Lithuania, Federated Group), Document 1912.