

A Constitution for Europe

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The shortcomings of the Treaty of Nice increased the need for general reform of the institutions of the European Union so that they could accommodate the countries applying for accession, become more effective and be more comprehensible to the people of Europe. On 15 December 2001, the European Council, meeting in Laeken, decided to convene a Convention on the Future of Europe, which decided in turn to draw up a draft constitutional treaty. After undergoing some amendments following the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe was adopted by the European Council in Rome on 29 October 2004. It then had to be ratified by each of the Member States on the basis of either parliamentary procedure or a referendum.