

ECG letter to FT  
For the European Constitutional Group



We write to deplore the signing this week in Lisbon of the new treaty amending the current treaty arrangements for the European Union (the Lisbon Treaty).

We are ourselves in favour of new rules for the enlarged Union. The rules embodied in the Lisbon Treaty are not however the rules that Europe needs. They will neither help the Union improve its policy-making, nor will they make the Union more responsive to the wishes of its peoples. We published our own proposals first in 1993 and revised proposals in 2003. We stand by them.

The Lisbon Treaty is of truly constitutional significance. It repeats the errors of the Constitutional Treaty which we have criticised and rejected: it gives the Union still more competencies; it extends the general empowering clause from common market matters to all EU policies; it lowers the upper majority requirement in the Council from 73.9 per cent to 65 per cent; it abandons unanimity in fields in which this is dangerous; it leaves the national parliaments powerless in EU legislation. All these amendments, and several others, will reinforce the centralisation of Europe.

We call on electorates and parliaments throughout the European Union to reject the Lisbon Treaty.

Sincerely,

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On behalf of the European Constitutional Group.  
(List of members attached).



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