

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION ON SOCIAL QUALITY

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To mr. José Maria Gil-Robles
Gil-Delgado
Chair of the European Parliament
of the European Union
Belliardstraat 97-113
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concerns:

Amsterdam Declaration on
the Social Quality of Europe

Amsterdam, 14th April, 1997



Dear José Maria Gil-Robles,

On behalf of the new European Foundation on Social Quality it is a pleasure to invite you, as Chairman of the European Parliament, to formally accept the 'Declaration of Amsterdam on the Social Quality of Europe' during an official meeting in Amsterdam on Tuesday afternoon, June 10th, 1997. This Declaration will be prepared by fifty European social scientists (jurists, economists, sociologists and political scientists). Its purpose is to prepare the way - a.o. with support of the European Parliament - for new social policies regarding the European social quality.

The Declaration will be a result of the forthcoming book "Towards a Social Quality of Europe", to be published by Kluwer Law International (London, The Hague, Boston), a synopsis of which will be sent to you by fax. From Sunday evening June 8th, till Tuesday afternoon June 10th, fifty social scientists and fifty high level civil servants from the member states will discuss this book during the Invitation Conference. This Conference will be organized under responsibility of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the European Commission.

After this Invitation Conference the social scientists will present their Declaration on Social Quality, assisted by representatives from the City of Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Free University. In principle, the European Foundation will be responsible for the diffusion of this official presentation to the citizens of Europe. Specifically, all the scientists engaged are pleading for a democratisation of the European unification and the European institutions. With this in mind it will be a great honour if you as Chairman of the European Parliament are willing to take delivery of the Amsterdam Declaration to be presented by the chair of the European Foundation, prof. dr. Alan Walker.

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On Tuesday evening, the European Foundation will organize a festive symposium on the Declaration of Amsterdam. Invited are:

- * mr. Ruud Lubbers (former prime minister of the Dutch Government), in principle he accepted,
- * prof. dr. O. von der Gablentz (Rector of the European College in Brugge); he accepted,
- * Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo (chair of the European Comité des Sages) and
- * Georges de Debunne (chair of the European Association of Elderly, the FERPA); he accepted.

Together with a copy of the synopsis of the book "Towards a Social Quality of Europe" it is a pleasure to send you a copy of the programme of the Invitation Conference. We also will send you the first (draft) pages of book's Chapter-XII. Many parts of the book refer to the important document of the Comité des Sages, pleading for a real Europe of citizens. With this in mind it would be a great honour for the European Foundation, the City of Amsterdam, and both Amsterdam Universities if you, as the highest ranking representative of the European Parliament are willing to accept the Declaration of Amsterdam.

We hope you will have the opportunity to participate in the formal presentation of Declaration of Amsterdam and to receive this document,

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Sincerely Yours,

dr. Laurent J.G. van der Maesen
Secretary of the European Foundation

Enclosed:

- * the synopsis of the book on social quality,
- * the programme of the Invitation Conference,
- * some pages of the draft of the book's chapter-XII.

cc.

- * prof. dr. A. Walker, University of Sheffield,
- * prof. dr. J. Berghman, University of Tilburg,
- * prof. dr. C.P.M. Knipscheer, Free University, Amsterdam,
- * prof. dr. H. Pinkster, University of Amsterdam,
- * mr. E. Patijn, Mayor of the City of Amsterdam