



## **FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS IN EUROPE: WHAT ROLE AND WHAT STATUS IN POLITICAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **LISBON APPEAL**

**Adopted by the participants in the seminar organised by the European Association  
of former members of the member states of the Council of Europe**

**(Lisbon, 23 October 2009)**

The delegates of the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the member states of the Council of Europe, convened in a seminar in Lisbon on 23 October 2009, thank the Portuguese Association for its warm welcome and agree to launch the following appeal:

Former European parliamentarians:

- Stress that the aim of the European Association is to promote the European ideal and to contribute to the European construction. To this end, its objective is to make the European institutions better known. The Association may organise meetings and colloquies aimed at examining the major problems of society (see Statutes, art. 1).
- Recall that since its official creation in 1994, the FP-AP has not ceased to grow and diversify its topics of analysis. The Lisbon seminar has been an opportunity to take stock of the role and status of former elected representatives in the 17 member countries.
- Consider that the signature on 7 September 2009 of the Memorandum of understanding between the FP-AP and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe marks a very important step in the life of the association. This document enshrines the traditional relations of amity between the FP-AP and the Council of Europe while opening new prospects of cooperation in common fields of interest such as the safeguard of human rights, and the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law.
- Reaffirm their determination to cooperate actively with European parliamentary institutions, and organise joint events on specific topics, in particular the sustainable development of living conditions and the challenges of population ageing in Europe. Membership of the FP-AP by the European Parliament Former Members Association cannot but promote these goals.

- Desire that the FP-AP's future policy choices will in particular consolidate the value and impact of the association's colloquies and seminars, allow optimal use of all the potential of the Internet site, help pursue enlargement, and help increased participation of members associations in the association's development and influence.
- Support the project for the creation of a United Nations parliamentary assembly, an essential body to guarantee the parliamentary dimension of a world governance in the making. The globalisation of the economy must go hand in hand with the globalisation of democracy and a strengthening of supervision over major financial institutions.
- Emphasise the importance of the Kiev colloquy to be held in October 2010 on the problems of immigration and refugees. This colloquy will mark Ukraine's membership of the FP-AP as part of its enlargement to the East.
- Support the idea of a 'European Charter for former parliamentarians' that has been enriched with the concrete and positive ideas put forward by the associations at the Lisbon seminar. This charter should be the basis of shared values, joint goals and instruments adapted to broad cooperation with European and international institutions including ways and means to make use of the experience and knowledge of former parliamentarians.
- Call on former parliamentarians of member states of the Council of Europe which have not joined the FP-AP to become members by creating national associations. This will enhance all the more the political and legislative experience they have acquired in their respective countries.