

REPORT - <http://europeannocampaign.org/428.html>

INVITE - <http://europeannocampaign.org/nl.html>

**Why say NO?** ENC CONFERENCE – Cross party conference on the EU Constitution with Dutch and international speakers.  
21 May 2005 – Felix Meritis – Amsterdam  
11.00 – 18.00 (10.30 – 19.00 )

AGENDA - <http://europeannocampaign.org/417.html>

#### Second session

### EU Constitution and sovereignty

12.30 – 13.30

12.30 **Who is going to decide in Holland?**

Syp Wynia, Journalist, columnist of Elsevier, The Netherlands

12.45 **A Dutch "no" will improve the debate in accession countries**

Vladimir Rott, Consultant/Democracy Europe, Czech Republic

13.00 **The British perspective of sovereignty**

Bernard Jenkin MP, United Kingdom

13.15 Questions and Answers

( 12.45 **A Dutch "no" will improve the debate in accession countries** )

# Sovereign Dutch citizens decide – and set an example for Europe

Vladimir Rott, Democracy Europe, Czechia/Switzerland  
[vjrott.com](http://vjrott.com) > english > society

Dear Dutch, dear Europeans! Free citizens!

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to share with you my thoughts and my experience.

#### Two questions, two answers, two experiences

Who of you, here today, has been asked by your government to give your decision whether you government may begin negotiations with the EU about the accession conditions?

Who of you has been asked by your government whether you wish your country to join the EU?

The answer to the first question is binding and, same as the question, guaranteed by constitution. That is my Swiss experience.<sup>1</sup>

The answer to the second question has been asked only after the government has been sure that it will be a "yes". Not binding and not guaranteed by any (decent, real) constitution or any (decent, real) law. That is my Czech experience.<sup>2</sup>

#### My experience – to share

My first experience in my life as citizen, as man, is that of an unfree Czechoslovak, born into a post-world-war-ii totality. Into a totalitarian regime keeping on going to kill people just for the purpose of spreading terror. Spreading terror in order to keep in power all those medieval-style clans, at that time calling themselves communists<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> I said "no", as the majority did. As a Swiss, I am convinced that the EU in its present state is not worth joining, and so that negotiating with it would be a waste.

<sup>2</sup> I said "yes", as the majority did. As a Czech, I am convinced that any structure, even the EU one, is far more better than the present post/communist clans still ruling and ruining my first country as they please.

<sup>3</sup> In eager collaboration with all those former nazi-collaborators...

My second experience is that of a free – and a proud – Swiss. A free – and proud citizen – of Europe.

My third experience is that of a yet to be freed Czech, with no real rights, with rights yet to emerge. These yet to emerge rights over there are those which most of you, here today, already enjoy as obvious and granted. Most of you, here today, were born with these rights. As most of you, here today, were born in that part of Europe, which became free half a century before the eastern part took its path to freedom. To freedom, democracy – and sovereignty.

My fourth experience is that of an emerging, almost free, European. Free in principle, yet without all the rights I have as a Swiss.

A proud Swiss citizen, enjoying rights, political rights, which all citizens of Europe today should enjoy too. And will enjoy soon, I believe. In my lifetime, I believe.

This is my dream, a dream I share with other Europeans – some of them are also here with us today.

This is a dream we, and I, want to share today with you, and want to share with you in your coming decision, in your first referendum.

### **My thoughts – to share and to exchange**

As said, I also thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you – and to exchange our thoughts – on your coming decision.

Your, Dutch sovereign's decision on the "Treaty on EU constitution"<sup>4</sup>. Your first sovereign decision in your first referendum.

To be frank – not a real referendum. But a first step to this right, one of the citizens' rights in a modern democracy. First step – and so a very important, truly historical, step.

Let me share with you my, Swiss, experience on what real sovereignty, real democracy and real referendums are.

#### **1. Sovereignty – real sovereignty**

- comes from each one citizen, the sovereign<sup>5</sup>

#### **2. Democracy – real democracy**

- comes from real sovereignty
- from each one citizen, the sovereign.

#### **3. Referendums – real referendums**

- come from real democracy and real sovereignty
- and are binding for citizens' representatives.

### **Why such a paper, as the "Treaty" is, would be rejected by the Swiss**

In Switzerland, such a thing – in such a state as the "Treaty on the EU constitution" is – would be rejected by the people. Should anyone dare to present such a thing, in such a state, to them. The reasons would be as follows.

The Swiss would feel, with full right, insulted by such a "package"

<sup>4</sup> The EU constitution – as all other real constitutions and treaties, including the EU ones – should be put under citizens' sovereignty.

And so, of course, also the Convention should be put under citizens' sovereignty, and made permanent.

<sup>5</sup> In most, representative, democracies, citizens pass their sovereignty on to their representatives – in the elections, each couple (of couple) of years.

In advanced, direct, democracies citizens also execute their sovereignty in initiatives and referendums – in executive and legislative matters. Their decisions are binding and – same as their rights – guaranteed by constitution.

See further e.g. admin.ch > english > Political rights (also in french, german, italian, rumantsch), for an example on the federal level.

of so many, so various matters being presented to them for a single "yes" or "no". The Swiss hate any cheat.

Next, the whole thing is non-democratic. The Swiss hate anything lacking democracy.

And last, but not least, the miserable quality of the paper. The Swiss hate anything lacking quality and/or consideration.

Moreover, there would be inquiries – with grave consequences – into the workings of bodies and individuals, which dare to misuse the funds (taxes) for spending the money on such a thing.

## Sovereign Dutch – sovereign Europeans

Yet, you, free and sovereign Dutch, now have an opportunity to be heard. And your voice is important – for you, for your people, for your country. And for other people, for other countries.

### Sovereign Dutch citizens' decide – and set an example...

By deciding on the "EU constitution" – and by telling why – you, the Dutch citizens, set an example. An example in executing one of your basic rights. Our basic rights.

Basic rights still denied to people in most countries all around the world (not only in most of Europe).

By setting this example, you, the Dutch sovereign – as the real future Dutch sovereign – give, today, "food for thought" in the discussion:

- what Europe? *(citizens', people's)*
- by whom? *(by the citizens, by the people)*
- whom for? *(for the citizens, for the people)*
- how to decide? *(together with the citizens, with the people)*

### ...an example for other people of Europe – Europe "new" and "old"

Czech example:

- some couple of percent care (at all)
- some half of them really do care, read, analyze, discuss *(and this survived under decades of totality!)*
- but this is not enough to make any real changes
- my people over there must see, hear – and feel – a real example!

That's what your decision – free Dutch, free Europeans – is also about, is all about, and that's why it is so important:

- for the democracy yet to emerge
- for the sovereignty yet to emerge
- for all the still not so free ones in the former Eastern block
- for all the still not so sovereign ones in Europe, West and East.

Free and sovereign Dutch! Free and sovereign Europeans! Welcome to the future!

Welcome to the future of citizens' Europe!

Welcome to the future – our future – today!

Vladimir Rott

Amsterdam, Prague, Zurich (Europe) – 21 May 2005

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