

41 YEARS SINCE THE SPINELLI PROJECT: A LEGACY FOR EUROPE

Forty-one years ago, the European Parliament approved by a large majority the 'Draft Treaty establishing the European Union' drafted with the contribution of a committee of European lawyers.

The commentary of the draft was published by the Free University of Brussels in 2014.

That vote was the result of the Assembly's decision taken on 9 July 1981 at the urging of Altiero Spinelli and the Crocodile Club to take on an essentially constituent role by avoiding the obstacles of an intergovernmental conference and addressing the draft directly to the national parliaments asking them to approve it on the basis of the Vienna Convention on International Treaties.

The 1984 draft was the result of transparent and participatory parliamentary work involving civil society and academia and was disseminated through the magazine 'Crocodile: Letter to Members of the European Parliament' sent to European and national parliamentarians with ten thousand subscriptions throughout Europe, which is preserved in the Historical Archives of the European Union.

In the face of the governments' and the Commission's closure on the hypothesis of a revision of the Treaties, the European Parliament should abandon the intergovernmental and ineffective path of the convention and be inspired by the Crocodile initiative.

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