

## Editorial

It is most likely that the European Union and the candidate countries will conclude negotiations on the EU constitution by the end of this year. The constitution will herald a new era in the history of Europe in the sense that the majority of the continent will be under one common political roof. The crucial question will then be whether the enlarged European Union will succeed in achieving its entire new political image and whether the constitution will make this possible. For example, will it succeed in formulating a truly functional Common Foreign and Security Policy, will it manage to gradually eliminate existing serious differences in politics and in culture between the old and the new members, will it be successful in awakening a new and unifying spirit of Europeanism? For the moment, not very much bears witness for all this. While certain big European states want to formulate a Common Foreign and Security Policy further away from the United States – as though they had forgotten past destinies of a modern Euro-Atlantic civilization – the candidate countries reveal exaggerated and unrealistic expectations with regard to the benefits and advantages which membership in the Union will bring them, because they believe that the Union is, above all, a big socialist redistribution mechanism. Our conviction that most candidate countries are not prepared for accession to the Union, possibly among other reasons or mainly with regard to the aspects of values; we also believe that the transformation of values must be supplemented by the notion that there is no consensus on the value foundations of the new Union, not even among the existing members. The refusal of the majority to include Europe's Christian-Jewish roots of values in the constitution is alarming and most disturbing. The constitution points out that the identities of individual European nations must be protected and cultivated; yet it offers nothing on a European level that would create such a European identity. History tells us that a catalogue of rights, indeed even an extensive catalogue, is an empty declaration and if it lacks strong convictions, stemming from faith in universally valid values will be violated from the very beginning in various ways. And we also know that no power has ever risen to new heights in history – and the EU is already such a power in more ways than one – unless the majority of its citizens have shared some common ideas and ideals for which they would be prepared to fight. After the horrors of World Wars, Europe began to unite in the face of the Soviet threat; it is united by the so-called anti-totalitarian consensus. Today the EU is essentially threatened not from outside but from inside. A so-called culture war is taking place for its values and yet the candidate countries are not even aware that such a war is being waged since they have not yet come to terms with their own adverse past where all types of values were suppressed on a massive scale. If this were not the case, communists and various protagonists of past regimes would clearly not exercise the strong influence in these countries, as they do.

– *The Editors* –