



in cooperation with

TRANS-EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION



organise the conference

Citizens' Europe: Reflections on the Implications of the Reform Treaty

within the project

**Networking for Citizens and Neighbours:
Networking for Europe**



of the PHARE Civil Society programme

Sofia, 14 December 2007

The event will gather Bulgarian policy advisers, experts from academia, think tanks and civil society, several representatives of TEPSA member institutes, as well as colleagues from the expert and academic community in the EU and in candidate countries. BECSA will publish the conference proceedings on the basis of the speakers' written contributions.

The final design of the conference program will take into account the specific titles of contributions proposed by speakers and will thus narrow down the focus and sharpen debate on relevant topics.

THEMATIC SCOPE

The Reform Treaty is intensively debated in EU member states' capitals as well as in expert and academic circles. The Reform Treaty is said to reflect the majority of the original Constitutional Treaty provisions. At the same time it ditches some of the constitution's flowery preamble and part of the article on the principles of the union; drops references to the EU flag and anthem; and the text of the Charter of Fundamental Rights is relegated to an annex.

Reflections on the implications of the Reform Treaty need further analysis both in the context of the constitutional impasse and the future of the European integration project.

ACTORS: (a) **EU member states:** emerging conflicts and alliances; controversial issues, promoters of constitutionalisation versus supporters of the status quo (b) **Candidate countries:** prospects for enlargement (c) **non-state actors:** Is civil society in EU member states interested in the Reform Treaty? Is civil society able to influence the IGC outcome?

KEY ISSUES: (a) **institutional architecture:** will the new distribution of powers reflect already existing deficiencies?; (b) **legitimacy crisis and participation:** the dilemma between delivery deficit and governability; (c) **implications for citizens:** will the new Treaty provide for reshaping of citizens' expectations and involvement into the overall European integration project?; (d) **constitutionalisation:** have the essential qualities that made the constitution a constitution been removed or the things that have been changed are mere details?