



April 11, 2006

## **Danish Citizens to have a say in the drafting of the European Agenda**

The Danish Parliament, Folketinget, will hold a public hearing on the future of Europe with the nationwide Danish TV station TV2 from April 29<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2006. The official name of the hearing is: "Europahøring 2006".

The public hearing will be the largest and most prominent Danish contribution to the so-called Period of Reflection of the European Union. According to Elisabeth Arnold, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee in the Danish Parliament, the hearing will be one of the most important political events in Denmark this year.

During the two days of the hearing, 400 Danish citizens will, among other things, be discussing the greatest challenges which Europe is facing. The 400 citizens have been selected as a representative sample of the Danish electorate.

This 'Mini Denmark' will state its opinion on the issues which the EU Member states should focus on during the remaining Period of Reflection. Before the hearing, 2.500 Danes have been heard on this topic. The subject which they considered the most vital was the simplification of the working process of the EU. The hearing will therefore deal with this issue in particular. The participants will also discuss the role of the EU when facing the various challenges in Europe, such as the fight against terrorism, co-operation within the field of research, environmental and social security and the question of the geographical boundaries of the European Union.

Danish politicians such as Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Prime Minister, Per Stig Møller, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and leaders of the Opposition parties will attend the hearing..

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, will also participate in the hearing by answering questions from the Danish participants via a video link from Brussels.

The public hearing will take the form of a Deliberative Polling. A Deliberative Poll is based on the simple idea of bringing together a representative group of citizens, let them deliberate with each other, with politicians and experts, and poll their opinions before, during and after this process. Deliberative Polling gives you an insight into public opinion such as it would be if every citizen were given the chance to participate in a similar process.

In your capacity as a journalist, you are kindly invited to attend the hearing, which will be held in Odense, Denmark, from April 29<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2006 and hear what conclusions Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Prime Minister, will take with him to the EU summit to be held in June 2006.

Please visit the web-site: [www.borgernesdagsorden.dk/hoering](http://www.borgernesdagsorden.dk/hoering) for further information. And please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat of the hearing at [presse@dakom.dk](mailto:presse@dakom.dk) or phone +45 3315 6464 or to contact Mrs. Elisabeth Arnold on tel. + 45 3337 4701, if you have any further questions.

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