

# Germany urges deal on new EU constitution

Ahead of a crucial EU summit, Chancellor Angela Merkel, current president of the bloc, is pushing European leaders to agree on what should be included in a new, simplified treaty to replace the draft constitution, which was rejected by French and Dutch voters in 2005




## PARTS OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION THAT COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM TREATY

- ✗ Symbols:** Many oppose any reference to EU flag or anthem. Netherlands wants name "constitution" dropped owing to its federalist connotations
- ✗ Majority voting:** UK leading fight to retain national veto power in matters such as justice and home affairs
- ✗ Law:** UK opposes "legal personality" for EU – allowing it to join institutions such as Security Council. Also wants to keep charter of human rights excluded from treaty

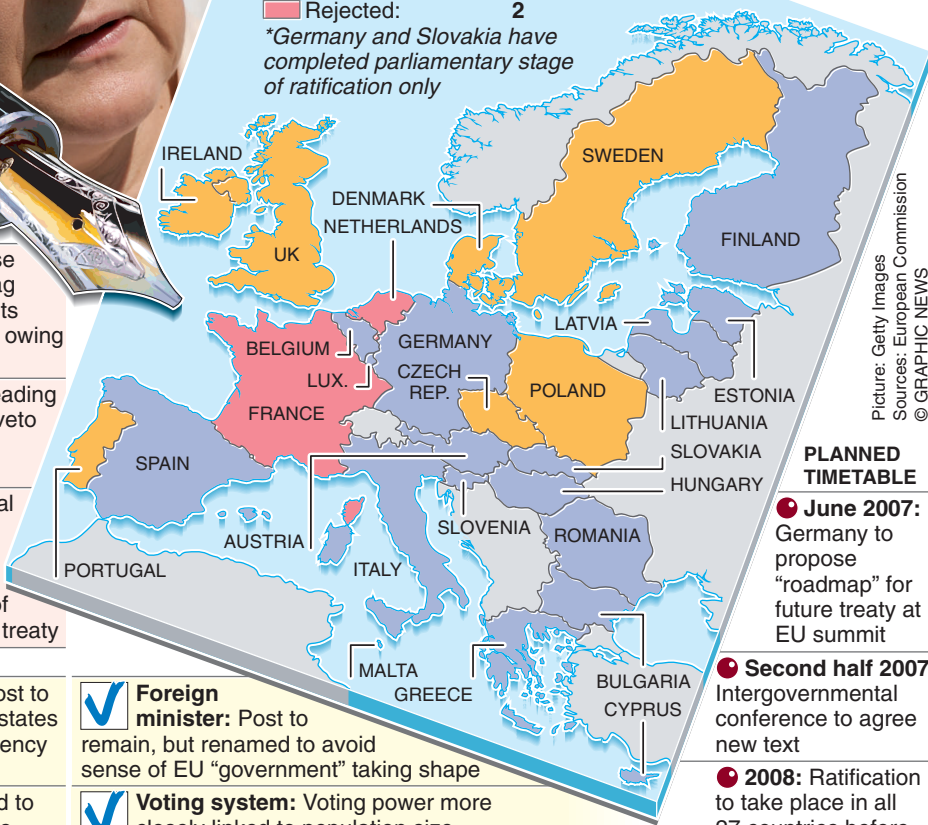
## PARTS THAT COULD REMAIN

- ✓ President:** Full-time post to replace system where states take it in turns to hold presidency of Council for six months
- ✓ Foreign minister:** Post to remain, but renamed to avoid sense of EU "government" taking shape
- ✓ Commission:** Trimmed to 18 members. Nominees chosen by equal rotation – down from one from each country
- ✓ Voting system:** Voting power more closely linked to population size – **strongly opposed by Poland, which says this penalizes small and medium-sized countries**

## STATUS OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION:

-  Ratified: **\*18**
-  Ratification on hold: **7**
-  Rejected: **2**

*\*Germany and Slovakia have completed parliamentary stage of ratification only*



## PLANNED TIMETABLE

- June 2007:** Germany to propose "roadmap" for future treaty at EU summit
- Second half 2007** Intergovernmental conference to agree new text
- 2008:** Ratification to take place in all 27 countries before European Parliament elections in 2009

Picture: Getty Images  
Sources: European Commission  
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