

## **INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND WORRIES ABOUT THE FUTURE**

I am very proud of what we did at the time, which opened a new path, in the light of what has happened in the last 20 years, we have had to conclude a new Treaty every four years to adapt to rapid change and developments.

It is similar to what happens to teenagers when they experience a growth spurt and can no longer fit into their clothes. So if you think about it: Maastricht lasted four years; Amsterdam lasted four years; and then Nice, which was the turning point for the traditional negotiating model; the constitutional convention, the convention first, the Charter of Fundamental rights, parallel to Nice; the constitutional convention and the Treaty of Lisbon. In other words, we needed new clothes because we were growing.

What worries me now – albeit speaking as a private citizen – is that the spirit which characterised and defined the strides we made together seems significantly diminished and attitudes have shifted towards national or nationalistic positions and I definitely see this as a very bad sign.