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Article

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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The process of European union has evolved from one based on economics alone to one concerned with keeping peace and the rights of individual citizens. This past year, the Member States of the European Union agreed upon the provisions of a new treaty that recognizes that the continued viability of the Union also depends on its people, not merely on its laws and institutions. The Treaty of Amsterdam focuses on the protection of fundamental human rights within the Union. When the member states ratify this treaty, as expected, individual citizens will be assured that the Union will protect their human rights no matter where they choose to travel or live within the Union. The authors believe that this recognition of the role of the individual is a positive step in the growth of a strong and unified European Union.

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