Europe Can Not Wait On Maastricht

The 340 million people of Europe are among the 20 percent of the world's population who share 80 percent of the world's wealth. Yet 53 million people in Europe live in poverty.

I will soon vote yes in the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty. But this does not mean I am simply going along with "a bunch of national leaders," as Matthew Henrich suggested in his column on the treaty (["Europeans Should Wait on Rush Towards Unity," Sept. 2]).

The Maastricht treaty is only a tool. The real question Europe faces is not whether to accept the treaty, but how it will be used to allow informed European citizens to participate in an effective government.

Europe should not wait on unification. Now is the time to show our will to act, not to discuss the issue in print. Some people prefer to remain confined in their individual domain, to forget the poverty and its consequences and the rush that most only with indifference. They prefer immobility. But in the face of the present instabilities and dislocations, new steps are necessary. The Maastricht treaty is the first of these.

Cécile Martin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

September 3, 1992

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LETTERS POLICY

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Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.