

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 27 March 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation of the April Convention session

The Praesidium agreed that a questionnaire (non exhaustive, of course) should be circulated to the Convention with a view to focusing the debate (see CONV 16/02).

It was also agreed that the paper prepared by the Secretariat describing the current delimitation of competencies between the EU and Members States would be circulated separately, with a view to enriching further discussion. Further papers outlining possible options (M. Henning Christophersen's paper as well as others) will be circulated in good time for the May session, which will be devoted to the "exercise of the EU competences".

The Praesidium agreed that the time limit of 3 minutes for speeches had proved to be useful; it will continue to apply for the April debate.

2. Youth session

The Praesidium approved the arrangements proposed and agreed that a note be circulated to the Convention (see doc CONV 15/02).

3. Interpretation for the languages of the applicant countries

The Praesidium welcomed the pragmatic solution identified following the intervention of M. Kratz (Latvia) at the March Convention session and asked the Secretariat to inform the Convention members accordingly (see doc. CONV 18/02).

4. Eurobarometer (Mr Duhamel's suggestion)

The Praesidium took note that the Commission had already included in the surveys which are currently being carried out some questions concerning the future of Europe. It welcomed the offer of the Commission representatives to circulate a synthetic note on the indications resulting from the answers to those questions. The Praesidium also welcomed the readiness of the Commission to add new questions on the future of Europe in the next surveys, in consultation with Mr Duhamel as well as members of the Praesidium.

5. The Praesidium confirmed the calendar for the Convention sessions from April to July and agreed the time of the Praesidium meetings (see attachment).

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

1. Autumn calendar

The Praesidium examined the draft calendar prepared by the Secretariat. Some members underlined that Monday sessions raised practical difficulties: the Praesidium is supposed to meet before each Convention session (i.e. in this case Monday morning), while at the same time there are meetings of the different components of the Convention and/or of the political groups.

It was agreed that, before establishing the calendar, members of the Praesidium, and in particular those representing the national Parliaments, would consult the Component they represent in order to check whether their colleagues continue to prefer sessions on Monday and Tuesday despite the practical problems described above. Members of the Praesidium will then forward this information to the Convention Secretariat by 10 April, so that a draft calendar can be established on that basis and submitted to the next Convention session.

2. M. Lamassoure's suggestion

The Praesidium had an exchange of views on M. Lamassoure's suggestion of addressing to all European citizens a questionnaire on Europe. The interest but also the implications and difficulties of such suggestion were mentioned. The Praesidium agreed to revert to the issue at one of its next meetings.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 15 April, at 10h30.