

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 15 April 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Plenary debate

The Praesidium agreed on the Chairman's proposal to provide members in the plenary debate with the opportunity to react to interventions: every five interventions according to the list of speakers, the Chair would allow five members raising a blue card to speak for 1 minute to comment on, or contradict, the previous speeches.

This would be done at one or two sessions on an experimental basis; the Praesidium would then assess the situation.

2. Preparation for the Convention session of 15/16 April

It was agreed that following the session, the Praesidium would consider an expanded version of document CONV 17/02 on competences, incorporating elements emerging from the debate. Thereafter, the Secretariat would prepare a further document on instruments, specifying who does what, and how.

3. Praesidium working methods

- a) A discussion took place on the question whether members of the Praesidium could circulate to the Convention individual contributions. It was agreed that in order not to undermine the role of the Praesidium, its members rather than circulating individual contributions to the Convention, would submit suggestions to the Praesidium.

- b) As to documents established by Institutions (EP or Commission), they would of course constitute useful inputs to the work of the Convention. It was also specified that the Solana's document on Council reform, discussed at the Barcelona European Council and to be considered again at the Seville European Council, was principally concerned with improvements to the functioning of the Council which could be introduced without any change to the Treaty. Its scope does not therefore encroach on the Convention's land.
- c) The Praesidium agreed that in order to play its steering role it should devote the time required to the discussion of policy issues. The Praesidium meeting of 8 May would last the whole day and would be devoted to competences, and instruments (and would inter alia consider the papers by Mr Christophersen and Mr Katiforis).

4. Eurobarometer

The Praesidium welcomed the note prepared by the Commission, and noted its interesting indications on the priorities identified by European citizens. The note would be circulated to the Convention in the plenary.

5. Letter from Mr Mendez de Vigo and Hänsch concerning the meeting room

The Chairman, noting that there are galleries as well as salles d'écoute for the public, stressed the need for creating among the members of the Convention an atmosphere of close dialogue. For this purpose, the smaller room remained preferable to the hemicycle.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

6. Working groups

The Praesidium agreed that in order to allow for real work to be done in working groups, their mandate should focus on specific questions which could not be examined in depth in the plenary, and their duration should be limited. It was suggested that they should be chaired by a member of the Praesidium with a view to ensuring the consistency of their work.

The Secretariat was invited to prepare a note for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Autumn calendar

In the absence of indications from representatives of national parliaments, the decision was postponed until 25 April, though the need to inform Convention members soon of the dates of autumn meetings was again stressed.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 25 April, at 15h00.