

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: **Meeting of the Praesidium**
 Brussels, 25 April 2002

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Autumn calendar

The Praesidium, taking into account both the wish of members designated by national parliaments to have Convention sessions on Monday and Tuesday and the need underlined by the other members of having sufficient time for prior co-ordination meetings of components and political groups, reached agreement on the attached calendar.

2. Handling of Plenary sessions

It was agreed that the introduction of blue card interventions at the April session had worked well. Further to increase the spontaneity of debate ,speakers whose contributions had been the subject of blue card comments should in future be given a (green card) right of brief reply.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

3. Working groups

The Praesidium considered the Secretariat document SN 2103/2/02 REV 2.

Following an exchange of views, in particular on the scope of the mandate of the working groups and on suggestions for the setting up of other working groups, the Chairman concluded that at the May session the Praesidium would announce the setting up of 6 working

groups. Five of them would correspond to those suggested in the above mentioned paper, with slight amendments to their mandate, and a sixth one would consider improved economic co-ordination mechanisms in the context of monetary union. The Praesidium agreed to finalise the mandate of the 6 working groups at its next meeting on the basis of a new Secretariat draft.

As to the idea, put forward by the "invitee", of a working group on minorities and cultural identities, it was concluded that rather than creating a specific working group, these questions could be dealt with in the working groups on the "Charter" and on "Complementary competences".

As to the Presidency on the working groups, the Praesidium agreed the following :

- Subsidiarity : Ms Palacio
- Charter : Mendez de Vigo or Vitorino
- Legal personality : Amato
- National parliaments : Stuart or Bruton
- Complementary competences : Christophersen
- Economic governance : Hänsch.

It was further agreed that each working group Chairman would prepare for the Praesidium a short paper describing the approach to be followed in the group.

Topics for other working groups, notably in the field of foreign policy and JAI, would be identified following the debate in the plenary in June.

4. The Forum and the Convention session devoted to civil society

On the basis of the note by the Vice-Chairman Dehaene and of its oral presentation, the Praesidium took stock of the activities carried out within the Forum and was informed about the modalities for the June session devoted to civil society. It was agreed that the designated Convention Observers have a specific position in relation to the dialogue with civil society and would therefore be given the possibility to address the Convention. Vice-Chairman Dehaene also referred to the meetings of NGOs and other organisation representing civil

society organised by ECOSOC, which could also allow participants to identify spokesmen to address the Convention.

The Praesidium stressed the need to ensure that the session devoted to civil society be lively and interesting. It was agreed that the members of the Convention could intervene in the debate with the blue card.

4. Consultation of students on the future of Europe

The Praesidium noted with interest the proposal put forward by four members of the Convention.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 8 May, at 10h30.