

**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS**

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium  
Brussels, 22 May 2002**

**POINTS SETTLED**

1. Handling of the Convention session of 23-24 May 2002

The Praesidium agreed that :

- the Convention should have a tea-break, in order to allow members of the Praesidium and of the Convention to have informal contacts;
- on Friday morning at the opening of the session, a quarter of an hour would be devoted to a "question-time" so that members of the Convention would have the opportunity to address questions to the Praesidium. This item would from now on regularly be put on the agenda of the Convention sessions.

2. Presentation by each Working Group Chairperson of her/his plans concerning the scope and handling of the Working Group

- The Praesidium had an exchange of views on the short papers put forward by the Chairs, and agreed that, once some had been amended in order to take account of the discussion in the Praesidium, all would be circulated simultaneously to the members of the Working Groups as introductory papers by the Chairpersons.

- On practical modalities for Working Groups, the Praesidium took note of a Secretariat note in particular on questions of access to Working Group meetings for collaborators, press and public. It was agreed that members of the Working Group should be entitled to bring one collaborator. As to press and public, the Secretariat had suggested a liberal approach: "auditions" should in any case be open, and so might most meetings (provided appropriate meeting rooms could be found), though it would be important to preserve the possibility of "closed door" meetings, if accommodation difficulties made this necessary, and when reports were being considered. The President thought it best to leave the matter to the discretion of each Working Group Chair.

3. Themes to be discussed at the 6-7 June Convention session

After discussion, the Praesidium agreed the following agenda:

- Thursday afternoon: JAI
- Friday morning: Role of National Parliaments.

The Praesidium thought that both debates should be on the basis of discussion papers, and noted that the Secretariat had distributed to Praesidium members, copies of the two texts required. The latter was a shortened version of the paper on National Parliaments which the Praesidium had considered on 8 May: it had been amended to reflect their discussion. The former, on JAI, had not previously been considered by the Praesidium: Praesidium members agreed that it would be submitted to a written approval procedure: deadline for comments, mid-day on 29 May (given the need for the final version to be issued to the Convention by 31 May).

4. A.O.B.

- The Praesidium agreed to cancel the meeting foreseen for 30 May.
  
- The Praesidium was informed by Ms Palacio of the recommendation expressed by Women's Organisations, at a meeting held at the European Parliament that morning, concerning the gender balance in the Working Groups.

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The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 5 June, at 16h30.

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