

**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS**

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

**POINTS SETTLED**

**1. Report to the Seville European Council**

The Praesidium was informed by the Chairman about his meeting with the European Council.

**2. Preparation for the Convention session of 11-12 July**

The Praesidium examined the draft discussion paper on EU external relations prepared by the Secretariat, including the new section describing the issues to be discussed and identifying areas for reflection.

It agreed that members of the Praesidium would forward their comments or suggested amendments in writing to the Secretariat by Friday 28 June, in order to enable it to circulate an amended version to the Convention in the course of next week.

In terms of agenda, it was agreed that the session of 11 July would be devoted to External Relations; the session of 12 July would first hear the report of the Youth Convention and then would have a short debate on Defence.

**3. Assessment of the Convention session devoted to Civil Society**

The Praesidium noted that the session had been successful and in particular that contact groups had proved particularly useful in getting the organisations representing the Civil Society to decide how to allocate their time to address the Convention, and in helping them make contact with Praesidium and Convention members. Some useful messages had emerged from the session. The Chairmen of the contact groups would assess the usefulness of convening further meetings (Ms Palacio and Mr Amato informed the Praesidium that they had already announced that their contact groups would continue to meet).

#### **4. Working group on Security and Justice**

On the basis of Mr Vitorino's proposed amendments to the initial draft, the Praesidium agreed the mandate for the group (noting that points raised by Mr Hänsch would be covered in its discussions).

#### **5. Preparation of the Youth Convention**

The Praesidium took note with satisfaction of the programme for this session. Members of the Praesidium agreed that they would attend the opening on 10 July at 10h30.

### **OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

#### **6. Further working groups**

The Praesidium discussed, on the basis of the Chairman's proposals, the setting up of further working groups. After careful consideration, it was agreed that four working groups would be announced at the July session; in addition to Security and Justice, three groups would be entrusted with the examination of specific questions in the fields of external action, defence, and simplification of the legislative procedures (the mandate of the latter group would also cover the simplification of instruments). It was noted that the setting up of further working groups, at a later stage, was not excluded, should further needs emerge from the Convention's debates.

Concerning the requests by a number of Convention members for the early preparation of the draft text of a "Traité constitutionnel", on the basis of which the Convention could work, the Praesidium discussed how best to ensure the optimum Convention outcome. They felt that the ambition of the Convention, in terms of credibility and of impact on the following IGC, should indeed be the drafting of a "Traité constitutionnel"; but, following discussion, the Praesidium confirmed that they thought the process of examining first the "what" and "why" questions, then the "how" questions, and finally the "who" (i.e. institutional) questions, remained the right one. In the light of the next plenary debates (on external action and, perhaps on 12-13 September, on simplification), as well as the results of the first working groups (in particular on subsidiarity, legal personality and Charter), the Praesidium might, around October, be able to produce a first sketch of a general framework into which the various building blocks would fit.

It was thought that it would be useful for the Chairman to give the Convention, at the 11-12 July session, an outline of this thinking.

## 7. Any Other Business

The Praesidium briefly discussed the question how the Convention and its work could be brought to wider public attention. The major responsibility lay with national authorities; however, some initiatives could be envisaged, in particular in connection with subsequent phases of the Convention.

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The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 10 July, at 16h00.

*P.M. Members of the Praesidium should also see the attached note, relevant to point 5. above, from Ms Berger, on behalf of 9 titulaires and 9 suppléants members of the Convention.*

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**THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION**

Brussels, 26 June 2002

**The Secretariat**

**NOTE**

**for the attention of the Praesidium**

**Subject : Motion for an additional item on the agenda of the July session**

Ms Maria Berger, alternate member of the Convention, submitted, on the afternoon of 26 June, the attached motion for an additional item for the agenda of the July session. Receipt of the motion, signed by eighteen members (list attached), has been acknowledged.

According to article 2 of the Convention « Working methods » paper, the Praesidium shall add a subject to the draft agenda when a request is made in writing one week before the relevant session by a “significant number of members ». One could discuss whether 18 is a significant number. But since Ms Berger's request is likely to be followed by others, or supported by other signatories, it might be preferable to accept the item for the agenda, and to take the opportunity to explain to the Convention the approach adopted by the Praesidium on 25 June, with Convention debates leading to Working Groups, which in turn produce building blocks, and the Convention receiving from the Praesidium, perhaps in October, a first outline of the framework into which they would fit.

To the  
Secretary General of the Convention  
Sir John Kerr

Rue de la Loi 175  
1048 Bruxelles

Please find attached a motion for an additional item on the agenda of our July meeting. This motion has been signed by 18 Members of the Convention. May I also ask to confirm the receipt of our motion.

Yours

Maria Berger  
on behalf of all the signatories

## Proposal to the Presidium of the Convention

**We, the undersigned Members of the Convention, in accordance with Article 2 of the Rules of Procedures ask the Presidium of the Convention to prepare a decision of the Convention, to be taken at its July meeting, as follows**

- The Convention invites the European Commission to prepare until October a draft constitutional treaty. A first draft should be discussed by the Convention at its meeting at the end of October.
- This draft should base itself on the proposals of the European University Institute, Florence and on the results of the Convention debates so far, in particular
  - the objectives of the Union
  - the division of powers between the Union and its Members states
  - the reform of the CFSP
  - the reform in the area of Justice and Home Affairs
  - the reform of decision-making
  - the simplification of the treaty itself and its legal and policy instruments, including the dissolution of the three pillar concept and combining the existing treaties.

Where there are still no or no clear results of the Convention and its working groups, the draft treaty may leave blanks or suggest options. Furthermore, the draft treaty should be divided in two parts (fundamental/non fundamental provisions). The European Commission may ask whoever it considers necessary and useful to assist in this work.

Name

Signature

Please return undersigned lists to Maria Berger, ASP 15 G 346, European Parliament.

## **List of signatories**

### MEMBERS:

1. Paraskevas Avgerinos
2. Elio Di Rupo
3. Olivier Duhamel
4. Caspar Einem
5. Ben Fayot
6. Slavko Gaber
7. Silvia Kaufmann
8. Jan Kavan
9. Ann Van Lancker

### ALTERNATE:

1. Robert Badinter
2. Pervanche Beres
3. Maria Berger
4. Carlos Carnero Gonzalez
5. Jan Kohnt
6. Eva Lichtenberger
7. Marie Nagy
8. Elena Paciotti
9. Adrian Severin

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