

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 4 December 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Plenary sessions of 5-6 December and 20 December

The Praesidium heard a presentation by Mr Amato and Mr Bruton of the reports of Working Groups IX and X. It approved a list of members of the Working Group on "Social Europe" (circulated as document CONV 445/02) and agreed that the report of this Working Group should be completed by the end of January and discussed at the plenary of 6-7 February. It was confirmed that, at the opening of the session, President Prodi would present the Commission communication to the Convention, but not the draft Treaty, which had recently been disclosed. The latter had, the Praesidium was told, no official status.

The Praesidium also heard brief previews of the possible outcomes of Working Groups VII and VIII from Mr Dehaene and Mr Barnier. It agreed that, at the 20 December session, the Praesidium would explain how it envisaged the work of the Convention proceeding in 2003; in particular Convention members should be reassured that all texts would be subject to full examination.

2. Plenary session of 20-21 January

The Praesidium agreed that this session would be devoted to a first debate on institutional issues. In parallel, the Praesidium would start drafting the first sections of the Treaty (values and objectives, and competences, which would be followed by instruments and procedures, the integration of the Charter etc.).

3. European Council

The President informed the Praesidium about the elements of his oral presentation to the European Council:

- draft Treaty framework approved by the Plenary
- recommendations of the Working Groups, on the basis of which a number of conclusions had been reached in Plenary.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

4. Public opinion information

Ms Stuart expressed reservations about the idea of a press campaign, being of the view that the President's interventions in TV programmes would be more effective and less costly.

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The next meeting will take place on 19 December, at 15h00.
