

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 19 December 2002

POINTS SETTLED

1. Plenary session of 20 December

- a) The Praesidium agreed that the President would present to the Convention the following Work Programme and Working Methods for 2003:
- 20/21 January: debate on the functioning of the Institutions;
 - 6/7 February: debates on the report of Working Group XI "Social Europe" and on the role of local and regional authorities;
 - in parallel, in the light of the views expressed in the plenary debate on Working Group reports, the Praesidium will be preparing its first drafts for Articles of Part I of the Constitutional Treaty. It will present these Articles in tranches: the first tranche (Titles I, II and III), by end-January for discussion in February; the second (Titles V, VII and IX) by end-February, and the third (Titles IV, VI, VIII and X) by end-March;
 - on Part II of the Treaty, the Praesidium will present to the Convention, in January, an analysis distinguishing
 - a) Articles in the present Treaties which will fall, because they will be replaced by new Articles in Part I,
 - b) Articles in the present Treaties which will be replaced by new Articles in Part II (e.g. the provisions on ex-PESC, ex-JAD),

- c) Articles in the present Treaties which will be amended, if at all, only technically, reflecting new provisions in Part I (in particular, the new classifications in Title V on "the Implementation of Union Action".) An expert Committee, drawn from the Legal Services of the three Institutions, will be asked to propose the necessary technical amendments.
- As to the Working Method which would allow all Members of the Convention to be involved in the elaboration of the different sections of the Treaty, the Praesidium agreed that once their first drafts had been presented, the procedure would depend on the Convention's reactions. If texts were broadly welcomed, a written procedure for suggesting technical amendments would apply: if, on the contrary, drafts gave rise to substantial Plenary debate, one might envisage "discussion groups" which could take forward specific issues between one Plenary and the following one. This method would ensure that the complete text, when forwarded to the Convention in April, would already reflect the further inputs of the Conventionnels.
- b) As to the Programme and Working Methods for the Praesidium, the Praesidium agreed that from 9 January on, meetings would last all day and would take place more frequently. For meetings or parts of meetings devoted to the examination of draft Articles, interpretation from and into three languages would be provided and each member of the Praesidium could be assisted by one collaborator. Drafts of Articles would be circulated in advance, and in good time.

2. Deliberative Poll

The Praesidium heard a presentation by Vice-President Amato on an initiative which could be carried out, with the support of major TV networks, between the conclusion of the Convention and the IGC. The Praesidium agreed that, although it would not officially sponsor the initiative, the organisers could be told that members of the Praesidium would be willing to participate.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

Press campaign in early 2003

The Praesidium agreed to consider at its next meeting a developed proposal for a message to be published in newspapers of all those countries participating in the Convention who so wished. They would also consider how to arrange newspaper advertisements publicising the Convention website.

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The next meeting will take place on 9 January 2003, at 10.30, at Val Duchesse.
