

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 13 March 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Freedom, security and justice (draft articles 19 to 23 of Part II of the Treaty and draft article 31 of Part I)

The Praesidium reached agreement on the text of the remaining draft articles on freedom security and justice (articles 19 to 23 of Part II of the Treaty and article 31 of Part I). It agreed that these draft articles, together with an accompanying commentary, should be presented to the Convention at its plenary session on 17 March.

2. Part II of the Treaty: outcome of work of the legal experts group

Copies of the final version of the report (in two volumes) drawn up by the group of legal experts on Part II of the Treaty were circulated to members of the Praesidium. The Praesidium agreed that the report should be circulated to the Convention during its plenary session on Tuesday 18 March. The Praesidium also approved a draft explanatory covering note to accompany the report.

3. Paper setting out possible approach on Euratom

The Praesidium approved the text of a draft note to the Convention setting out a possible approach on the Euratom treaty. It agreed that this note should be circulated to the Convention during its plenary session on Tuesday 18 March.

4. Setting up of the discussion group on budgetary procedure

- mandate and composition

The Praesidium approved a note for circulation to the next plenary session of the Convention setting out a mandate for the "discussion group" on the budgetary procedure. It was agreed that the group should be composed of a limited number of Convention members with specific expertise in the subject, and that it should aim to complete its work in time for its chairman, Mr Henning Christophersen, to report to the second April plenary.

5. Plenary session of 17/18 March

The Praesidium agreed that the plenary session of 17 /18 March would begin with a brief presentation of the draft articles on the Union's finances and on the issue of freedom, security and justice. The remainder of the session would be devoted to a discussion on draft articles 24 to 33, and on the draft protocols on subsidiarity and proportionality and the role of national parliaments. The Praesidium took note of the three documents drawn up by the secretariat analysing the amendments received on these three issues, and considered that these were useful background for the plenary debate.

6. Information by :

- Vice-President Amato on the additional session on "competences" of 5 March

Vice-President Amato reported to the Praesidium on the additional session on "competences" which had taken place on 5 March. The Praesidium agreed that this had been a helpful discussion, which whilst not a substitute for the plenary debate, had served to clarify a number of issues. It agreed that further such additional sessions would be useful.

- Mr Vitorino on the discussion group on the "Court of Justice"

Mr Vitorino informed the Praesidium that the discussion group on the Court of Justice was due to finalise its report at its meeting on the morning of 17 March. The Praesidium agreed that the report should be circulated to the Convention as soon as possible thereafter.

7. Any other business

None.

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The next meeting will take place on 27 March 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will start at 10h.30 and last the whole day.
