

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 2 April 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation for Plenary debates on 3/4 April

The Praesidium discussed the organisation of the agenda of the plenary session on 3-4 April. It agreed to structure the discussions on the draft articles on the Area of freedom, security and justice so as to address the issues of institutions, asylum, immigration and borders before the tea-break on the afternoon of 3 April, and to debate the remaining issues (judicial and police cooperation, Eurojust and the Public Prosecutor) after the tea break. The new sets of draft articles would be presented at the beginning of the morning of Friday 4 April, and this would be followed by a discussion on the draft articles on the Union's finances.

2. Examination of draft text on open method of coordination

The Praesidium had a detailed discussion on a possible draft article on the open method of coordination, on the basis of texts drawn up by the Secretariat. It concluded that there was no need for a new article on this issue, in particular given that provision for coordination already existed in draft article 15 of the Constitution, and that it would not therefore put forward a proposal to the Convention. It agreed that the Convention would be given a brief oral explanation on Friday 4 April.

3. Reactions to suggestions made by the group of legal experts

The Praesidium discussed the suggestions and questions put forward by the group of legal experts in their report on the exercise of technical simplification of Part II of the Constitution and reached an agreement on a number of them. It asked the Secretariat to prepare a further mandate, on the basis of these conclusions, to enable the experts to proceed to a further adaptation of the text.

4. "Cercle de discussion" on "Own Resources"

The Praesidium agreed that the mandate for the Group on "Own Resources", to be chaired by M. Mendez de Vigo, should be circulated to the Convention on 4 April.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

5. First exchange of views on draft texts on External Action/Defence to be presented to Plenary session on 24/25 April

The Praesidium had a first exchange of views on the overall approach to the draft articles on external action and defence. It agreed to begin a detailed examination of the draft articles at its next meeting on 10-11 April.

6. Any other business

None

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The next meeting will take place on 10 and 11 April 2003.

On 10 April, the meeting will take place at Justus Lipsius. It will start at 10h.30 and last the whole day.

On 11 April, the meeting will take place at **Val Duchesse**, Brussels. It will start at 10h.30 and last the whole day.

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