THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION   **Brussels, 28 April 2003**

THE SECRETARIAT

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

<u>**Subject:**</u> **Meeting of the Praesidium**
        Brussels, 22-23 April 2003

<u>**POINTS SETTLED**</u>

1.   **Revised texts on External Action/Defence to be presented to Plenary session on 24/25 April**

        The Praesidium endorsed the texts of draft articles on External Action/Defence, as revised to take into account the results of discussions at its previous meeting. It confirmed that these drafts should be presented to the Convention at its plenary on 24 April.

2.   **Draft texts on Institutions, Part I.**

        The Praesidium approved the texts of draft articles on the Union's institutions. It agreed that the introductory note to these articles should include a reference to the two options available to the Convention: either keeping to the provisions of the Nice Treaty or going beyond them. It also agreed that the note should state the view of the Praesidium that the proposed changes to the three main institutional provisions of the Nice Treaty (definition of QMV, representation in the European Parliament, and the composition of the Commission) should come into effect at the same time.

        The Praesidium concluded that the draft articles, together with the covering note, should be presented to the Convention at its plenary on 24 April. It accepted that its members might wish to express individual opinions on certain specific points in these drafts in the subsequent debate in plenary.

3.   **Handling of the plenary session of 24/25 April.**

        There was no substantive discussion of this point, although the Praesidium confirmed that the session would follow the order of points and timing as set out in the agenda circulated to the Convention as document CONV 686/03.

4. **Any other business.**

None.

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The next meeting will take place on 7 and 8 May 2003.

On 7 May the meeting will take place in the Justus Lipsius building. It will begin at 15h.00 and continue with a working dinner.

On 8 May the meeting will take place in the Justus Lipsius building. It will start at 9h.30 and last the whole day.

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