

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium  
Brussels, 7-8 May 2003**

**1. Competences (Part I, Articles 8 to 16).**

The Praesidium discussed possible revisions to draft articles 8 to 16 on the basis of a Secretariat analysis of the written amendments submitted by members of the Convention and the results of the discussions in plenary. The Praesidium agreed on a revised text of these articles which the Secretariat would incorporate in the consolidated revised version of Part I of the Constitution for completion at its meeting on 21 to 23 May.

**2. Working method of the Convention during the last phase and consensus building process.**

The Praesidium took note of a motion submitted by a number of members of the Convention calling for additional meetings of the Convention, and discussed the working method of the Convention during its final stages. It agreed that some of its conclusions should be set out in a letter from the President to members of the Convention (subsequently circulated as document CONV 721/03).

**3. Enhanced cooperation.**

The Praesidium discussed the possible content of provisions on enhanced cooperation in the Constitution on the basis of draft articles and a commentary drawn up by the Secretariat. It agreed that the Secretariat would revise its text to take into account issues raised in the discussion, and that the Praesidium would return to this issue at its next meeting on the basis of the revised text.

**4. Open method of coordination.**

The Praesidium held a further discussion on the open method of coordination on the basis of the text of a new draft article drawn up by the Secretariat in close collaboration with Vice President Amato. After lengthy discussion, it confirmed its earlier conclusion that there was no need for specific provisions on the open method to be included in the Constitution, and that no draft article should be submitted to the Convention.

## 5. **Institutions (Part II).**

The Praesidium agreed on a set of draft articles for Part II on the Court of Justice, based on the recommendations from the discussion circle on the Court, and concluded that these would be circulated to the Convention in time for the next plenary meeting. It discussed the handling of the other Part II institutions provisions, and concluded that the submission of draft articles should await the outcome of the discussions of the Part I articles at the plenary on 15 - 16 May.

## 6. **Any other business.**

- a) second report from the Legal Experts

A copy of the second report from the Legal Experts Group, together with a draft covering note from the Secretariat to the Convention was circulated to the Praesidium. It was agreed that in the absence of comments by 16h00 on Monday 12 May, both documents would be sent to the Convention.

- b) documentation to be published

The Praesidium took note of a document setting out proposals from the Secretariat on the documentation to be published at the end of the Convention's work. The Praesidium authorised the publication of Praesidium documents on the website after the conclusion of the Convention.

- c) budget

The Praesidium took note of the report on the execution of the Convention budget for the month of April, and the report of the Court of Auditors on the Convention budget for the year 2002.

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The next meeting will take place on 14 May 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will begin at 10h.00 and last the whole day.

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