

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium  
Brussels, 21-23 May 2003**

**21 May**

**1. Economic governance - revised Articles 3, 8 and 21 of text discussed on 14 May**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, the Excessive Deficit Procedure, and on the decision-making procedures for those Member States outside the euro-zone. It was agreed that these would be submitted to the Convention as part of the consolidated Part III articles.

**2. Budget**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on the budget for Part I and Part III of the Constitution, and agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention as part of the consolidated sets of articles.

**3. Implementation of Union action (Part I, Articles 24 to 32a, with the exception of Articles 29 and 30 of Title V) - revised**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on the implementation of Union action (articles 24 to 32a of Part I), and agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention as part of the consolidated Part I articles.

**4. Social Europe**

The Praesidium reviewed follow-up to the conclusions of the Social Europe Working Group, noting where they had been reflected in new or amended articles.

**5. Area of freedom, security and justice (Part III) - revised**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on freedom, security and justice for Part III of the Constitution, and agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention as part of the consolidated Part III articles.

## 22 May

### **1. Definition and objectives of the Union (Part I, Articles 1 to 7)**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on the definition and objectives of Union action (articles 1 to 7 of Part I), and agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention as part of the consolidated Part I articles.

### **2. General and Final Provisions (Part IV)**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on the General and Final Provisions for Part IV of the Constitution, and agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention with the consolidated Part III articles.

### **3. Institutions (Part I - Articles 14 to 23 and Part III)**

The Praesidium agreed to resubmit the existing Part I texts on institutions unamended at this stage as part of the consolidated Part I texts with a covering explanatory note. It also agreed on a set of Part III institutions articles, excluding those directly linked to the Part I provisions, for inclusion in the consolidated Part III articles.

### **4. External action (Part I articles 29 and 30 and Part II)**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on external action for Part I and Part III of the Constitution, and agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention as part of the consolidated sets of articles.

## 23 May

### **1. Charter**

The Praesidium reached agreement, on the basis of a paper from the Secretariat, on how the Charter on Fundamental Rights should be incorporated into the Constitution as its Part II. It agreed in particular that the preamble to the Charter should be included as an introduction to Part II, and that the numbering system for the articles of the Constitution should be separate for each of the four Parts.

### **2. Preamble**

The Praesidium had a brief discussion on the preamble to the Constitution on the basis of several texts. It agreed to return to this issue at its next meeting.

**3. The Union and its immediate environment; and Union membership (Titles IX and X of Part I)**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of revised articles on the Union and its immediate environment (Title IX) and Union membership (Title X) and agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention as part of the consolidated Part I articles.

**4. Part III (including new legal bases).**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of draft articles for new legal bases on energy, civil protection, intellectual property, civil administration, space and sport. It agreed that these would be submitted to the Convention together with the consolidated Part III articles for discussion at its meeting on 30-31 May.

The Praesidium also received a first edition of the first two volumes of texts (covering the whole new Constitution) before the end of its meeting. It agreed that the Secretariat would circulate these to the Convention as early as possible the following week. (Volume I was accordingly circulated on 26 May, and Volume II on 27 May, with new commentaries explaining how the Praesidium had reacted to the amendments suggested, and comments made, by Convention members.)

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The next meeting will take place on 28 May 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will begin at 10h.30.

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