

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 28 May 2003**

1. Preamble

The Praesidium reached agreement on a draft preamble to the Constitution, and agreed that this should be sent to the Convention (subsequently circulated as CONV 722/03).

2. Handling of the Plenary session of 30/31 May.

The Praesidium confirmed that the debate on 30 May would be devoted to reinforced cooperation, economic governance, and own resources and the budgetary procedure. The Saturday session (31 May) would provide an opportunity for members of the Convention to comment generally for the first time on the text of Parts II and (more particularly) Part III of the Constitution.

The Praesidium agreed that, given that it was unlikely that the Saturday debate would need to run into the afternoon, it would meet again at the end of the plenary session in order to discuss further the issue of institutions. It also agreed that the President and two Vice-Presidents should set aside Wednesday 4 June for consultations on this issue with each of the Convention's component groups. The results of these consultations would be assessed at a further meeting of the Praesidium on the morning of Thursday 5 June. The agenda for the remainder of the next plenary session (5-6 June) had still to be confirmed, but would certainly include a discussion on the non-institutional Titles of the revised version of Part I of the Constitution.

3. Post-Thessaloniki calendar and strategy.

The Praesidium agreed that it would be premature to make firm arrangements for work after Thessaloniki. However it noted, by way of contingency arrangements, that a possible additional plenary meeting could be envisaged in the period 9 to 11 July, with additional Praesidium meetings on 26 June and 4 July. The Praesidium agreed that the Secretariat should begin informally to make the necessary arrangements so that these meetings could, if necessary, be set up.

4. Any other business.

None

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The next meeting will take place in the afternoon of Saturday, 31 May, following the plenary session on the same day.
