

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject : 1st informal meeting of the Praesidium

22 February 2002

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Name and role of the Praesidium

- a) It was agreed to stick to the Laeken language: "Praesidium".
- b) The Praesidium should have a two-fold role: it should serve the convention without imposing on it, but should also provide guidance and assist in structuring the debate.

2. Working method of the Convention

Members of the Praesidium recognised that, given the non-homogenous character of the composition of the Convention, it was not appropriate to resort to a vote. The Convention should aim at achieving consensus or, at least, a substantial majority.

II. OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. Calendar of meetings of Convention and Praesidium

In order to take account of the request by the representatives of the national parliaments to hold the Convention meetings on Monday and Tuesday, it was agreed that the Secretariat should explore, together with the Secretariat of the European Parliament, the possibility of having at least some of the sessions at the beginning rather than at the end of the week. The Praesidium would reconsider the issue at its next meeting on the basis of this information, taking into account also the availability of the representatives of Heads of State and Government. The need for additional sessions was stressed by some members; others suggested that sessions might continue late into the evening.

As to the content of the first sessions, it was agreed that the debate should be organised on the basis of some general questions, the first of which would be "what do you expect from the EU?"

2. The Forum and contacts with civil society

The presentation by vice-President Dehaene of the broad lines of the activities of the Forum (see note dated 21 February 2000) was endorsed and it was agreed that the note should be further developed. Hearings should be organised on the basis of a structured approach (selection of participants and focus on specific issues) and two members of the Praesidium should ideally participate, together with M. Dehaene, in each hearing.

2. Arrangements for the opening session of the Convention

In view of the fact that the Convention has been convened by the European Council, the following arrangements were considered appropriate:

- President Cox could welcome the members of the Convention at the lunch
- the ceremonial session would be chaired by President Aznar, whose speech would be followed by President Cox's and President Prodi's (10 minutes each). President Giscard d'Estaing, seated from the beginning with the members of the Convention, would then join the podium and deliver his speech
- the session would then be suspended for 30 minutes (press conference)
- the 1st working session would then start with the following items:
 - presentation of the Praesidium
 - presentation of the programme of work
 - intervention by vice-President Dehaene on debate with civil society (and intervention by vice-President Amato on reorganisation of the Treaties?)
 - rules of procedure
- the session could be extended to the 1st March when a debate could be opened on the issues touched upon on 28th February.

This program is conditional on agreement at Praesidium level on the draft rules of procedure as well as on the results of contacts with President Cox.

4. Draft rules of procedure

The Praesidium agreed to revert to this issue on the basis of a revised version established by the Secretary of the Convention in the light of amendments suggested by members of the Praesidium by Monday 25 February lunch time.

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The next meeting of the Praesidium will take place on 27 February at 17H00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Second informal meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 27 February 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Calendar

All members agreed that the revised calendar of plenary sessions and meetings of the Praesidium was a good compromise and should be forwarded to the plenary (see doc. CONV 2/02);

The calendar for the rest of the year will be established by end April.

2. Video conference

The suggestions by John Bruton to consider the use of video conference for some meetings of the Praesidium was discussed. Given the fact that video conferencing facilities are not yet available in all capitals nor in the Council building and, more importantly, that members of the Praesidium attached particular importance to direct personal contacts, it was concluded that one would resort to video conference only in case of urgency and in addition to the scheduled meetings. The Secretariat would establish the likely timing of the availability of the necessary facilities.

3. Alternate to observers

Some members of the Praesidium having raised the question of alternates to observers, it was agreed that, on the basis of the Laeken declaration, observers could not have alternates. However, the Chairman might, for specific issues, invite to a Convention session persons having particularly relevant expertise or representing relevant bodies.

4. Agenda of the inaugural session

The agenda (which would be named "d roulement") of the inaugural session was agreed (and subsequently circulated as doc. CONV 1/02).

II. OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. Draft rules of procedure

Following a discussion, the Praesidium agreed to amend Art. 5.2. of the draft rules of procedure, so that advance notice of a full day absence should be sent to the Secretariat by 9 a.m. of the day in question.

In order to avoid any possible perception of the Praesidium imposing on the Convention the adoption of the rules of procedure without sufficient examination, it was agreed that the draft would be presented at the plenary session, but that members of the Convention would then be given a week to forward to the Secretariat written comments. In the light of these comments, a revised version would be prepared for submission to the Praesidium on 14 March, and then to the next plenary session.

2. Verbatim records of the plenary session

Some members of the Praesidium wondered whether it would be possible for the European Parliament services to agree to prepare verbatim records of the plenary sessions. Mr H nsch and Mr de Vigo undertook to explore this possibility.

3. Next plenary session

The Praesidium, having agreed that the March session would be devoted to the broad question: "What do people expect from the EU?", the Secretariat was invited to prepare, with a view to the next meeting of the Praesidium, a short set of questions to facilitate the debate.

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The next meeting of the Praesidium will take place on 14 March at 10.30 a.m.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 14 March 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Requests from applicant countries

The Praesidium welcomed the suggestions contained in the paper dated 12 March and agreed that a revised version of that paper, specifying that the “invitee” to the Praesidium should be selected by the national Parliaments, should be circulated to all the Members of the Convention with a view to the Plenary Session.

2. Preparation for the Convention Session

The Praesidium agreed the agenda, circulated in doc. CONV.5/02. As to the introduction to the general debate, after discussion the Praesidium reached the conclusion that it would be preferable for this first debate to let the Members of the Convention to express themselves freely. It was therefore decided that no specific question would be added to the general question: “What is expected of the European Union”.

As to the length of the interventions, the Praesidium was of the opinion that the Chairman should exercise his right of limiting it (3 or 4 minutes) in order to allow all the Members to speak.

3. Draft working methods

After careful examination, the Praesidium reached agreement on a revised draft of the Working Methods which would be circulated to the Convention (CONV 9/02). Each Member of the Praesidium undertook to explain the revised draft to his/her component in order to ensure a smooth approval at the Plenary Session.

The Praesidium Meeting of Wednesday, 20 March would allow the Praesidium to assess the state of play and to decide the strategy for the Plenary Session.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 20 March, at 16h00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 20 March 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. The Praesidium noted that the Economic and Social Committee had made a welcomed offer to assist in organising regular briefings with the European civil society network.

Mr Dehaene hoped that a member of the Praesidium would be present at such briefings.

2. Target date for completion of the Convention

The Praesidium, after discussion of the request by Mr Katiforis, reached the conclusion that the Convention should complete its work before summer 2003, but that it would be wrong to formally announce this.

3. List of speakers

The Praesidium agreed that the criteria on the basis of which the list of speakers is established by the Secretariat should be communicated to the Convention (see doc. CONV 11/02).

4. Travel expenses

The Praesidium adopted, on the basis of Art. 23 of decision 2002/176/EU, the decision on reimbursement of travel expenses of the Chairman and of the two Vice Chairmen.

5. Themes for subsequent Convention sessions

It was agreed that next session would be devoted to the "EU missions" (i.e. EU competencies). This theme, if not exhausted, could continue to be discussed at the May

session. The following theme would be "how the EU exercises its competencies" (taking into account both the aspect of democratic legitimacy and the aspect of efficiency).

The Praesidium also agreed that these sessions should be thoroughly prepared by the Praesidium which should aim at focusing the debate with short papers.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

1. Youth session

After discussion on the basis of the paper prepared by the Secretariat and in the light of comments and suggestions from Mr Barnier and Mr Vitorino, it was agreed that the Youth session should consist of 210 young people, selected

- 168 by the members of the Convention representing the national parliaments and the Governments, taking into account proposals by national youth associations;
- 32 by the members representing the European Parliament, and 10 by the Commission, taking into account proposals by the European youth associations.

The youth session would be organised back to back to the July Convention session.

The secretariat would, in contact with the Commission services, finalise a proposal with a view to the next Praesidium meeting.

2. Autumn calendar

A draft calendar for the period September-December 2002 should be submitted to the Praesidium at its next meeting.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 27 March, at 14h30.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 27 March 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation of the April Convention session

The Praesidium agreed that a questionnaire (non exhaustive, of course) should be circulated to the Convention with a view to focusing the debate (see CONV 16/02).

It was also agreed that the paper prepared by the Secretariat describing the current delimitation of competencies between the EU and Members States would be circulated separately, with a view to enriching further discussion. Further papers outlining possible options (M. Henning Christophersen's paper as well as others) will be circulated in good time for the May session, which will be devoted to the "exercise of the EU competences".

The Praesidium agreed that the time limit of 3 minutes for speeches had proved to be useful; it will continue to apply for the April debate.

2. Youth session

The Praesidium approved the arrangements proposed and agreed that a note be circulated to the Convention (see doc CONV 15/02).

3. Interpretation for the languages of the applicant countries

The Praesidium welcomed the pragmatic solution identified following the intervention of M. Kratz (Latvia) at the March Convention session and asked the Secretariat to inform the Convention members accordingly (see doc. CONV 18/02).

4. Eurobarometer (Mr Duhamel's suggestion)

The Praesidium took note that the Commission had already included in the surveys which are currently being carried out some questions concerning the future of Europe. It welcomed the offer of the Commission representatives to circulate a synthetic note on the indications resulting from the answers to those questions. The Praesidium also welcomed the readiness of the Commission to add new questions on the future of Europe in the next surveys, in consultation with Mr Duhamel as well as members of the Praesidium.

5. The Praesidium confirmed the calendar for the Convention sessions from April to July and agreed the time of the Praesidium meetings (see attachment).

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

1. Autumn calendar

The Praesidium examined the draft calendar prepared by the Secretariat. Some members underlined that Monday sessions raised practical difficulties: the Praesidium is supposed to meet before each Convention session (i.e. in this case Monday morning), while at the same time there are meetings of the different components of the Convention and/or of the political groups.

It was agreed that, before establishing the calendar, members of the Praesidium, and in particular those representing the national Parliaments, would consult the Component they represent in order to check whether their colleagues continue to prefer sessions on Monday and Tuesday despite the practical problems described above. Members of the Praesidium will then forward this information to the Convention Secretariat by 10 April, so that a draft calendar can be established on that basis and submitted to the next Convention session.

2. M. Lamassoure's suggestion

The Praesidium had an exchange of views on M. Lamassoure's suggestion of addressing to all European citizens a questionnaire on Europe. The interest but also the implications and difficulties of such suggestion were mentioned. The Praesidium agreed to revert to the issue at one of its next meetings.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 15 April, at 10h30.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 15 April 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Plenary debate

The Praesidium agreed on the Chairman's proposal to provide members in the plenary debate with the opportunity to react to interventions: every five interventions according to the list of speakers, the Chair would allow five members raising a blue card to speak for 1 minute to comment on, or contradict, the previous speeches.

This would be done at one or two sessions on an experimental basis; the Praesidium would then assess the situation.

2. Preparation for the Convention session of 15/16 April

It was agreed that following the session, the Praesidium would consider an expanded version of document CONV 17/02 on competences, incorporating elements emerging from the debate. Thereafter, the Secretariat would prepare a further document on instruments, specifying who does what, and how.

3. Praesidium working methods

- a) A discussion took place on the question whether members of the Praesidium could circulate to the Convention individual contributions. It was agreed that in order not to undermine the role of the Praesidium, its members rather than circulating individual contributions to the Convention, would submit suggestions to the Praesidium.

- b) As to documents established by Institutions (EP or Commission), they would of course constitute useful inputs to the work of the Convention. It was also specified that the Solana's document on Council reform, discussed at the Barcelona European Council and to be considered again at the Seville European Council, was principally concerned with improvements to the functioning of the Council which could be introduced without any change to the Treaty. Its scope does not therefore encroach on the Convention's land.
- c) The Praesidium agreed that in order to play its steering role it should devote the time required to the discussion of policy issues. The Praesidium meeting of 8 May would last the whole day and would be devoted to competences, and instruments (and would inter alia consider the papers by Mr Christophersen and Mr Katiforis).

4. Eurobarometer

The Praesidium welcomed the note prepared by the Commission, and noted its interesting indications on the priorities identified by European citizens. The note would be circulated to the Convention in the plenary.

5. Letter from Mr Mendez de Vigo and Hänsch concerning the meeting room

The Chairman, noting that there are galleries as well as salles d'écoute for the public, stressed the need for creating among the members of the Convention an atmosphere of close dialogue. For this purpose, the smaller room remained preferable to the hemicycle.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

6. Working groups

The Praesidium agreed that in order to allow for real work to be done in working groups, their mandate should focus on specific questions which could not be examined in depth in the plenary, and their duration should be limited. It was suggested that they should be chaired by a member of the Praesidium with a view to ensuring the consistency of their work.

The Secretariat was invited to prepare a note for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Autumn calendar

In the absence of indications from representatives of national parliaments, the decision was postponed until 25 April, though the need to inform Convention members soon of the dates of autumn meetings was again stressed.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 25 April, at 15h00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: **Meeting of the Praesidium**
 Brussels, 25 April 2002

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Autumn calendar

The Praesidium, taking into account both the wish of members designated by national parliaments to have Convention sessions on Monday and Tuesday and the need underlined by the other members of having sufficient time for prior co-ordination meetings of components and political groups, reached agreement on the attached calendar.

2. Handling of Plenary sessions

It was agreed that the introduction of blue card interventions at the April session had worked well. Further to increase the spontaneity of debate ,speakers whose contributions had been the subject of blue card comments should in future be given a (green card) right of brief reply.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

3. Working groups

The Praesidium considered the Secretariat document SN 2103/2/02 REV 2.

Following an exchange of views, in particular on the scope of the mandate of the working groups and on suggestions for the setting up of other working groups, the Chairman concluded that at the May session the Praesidium would announce the setting up of 6 working

groups. Five of them would correspond to those suggested in the above mentioned paper, with slight amendments to their mandate, and a sixth one would consider improved economic co-ordination mechanisms in the context of monetary union. The Praesidium agreed to finalise the mandate of the 6 working groups at its next meeting on the basis of a new Secretariat draft.

As to the idea, put forward by the "invitee", of a working group on minorities and cultural identities, it was concluded that rather than creating a specific working group, these questions could be dealt with in the working groups on the "Charter" and on "Complementary competences".

As to the Presidency on the working groups, the Praesidium agreed the following :

- Subsidiarity : Ms Palacio
- Charter : Mendez de Vigo or Vitorino
- Legal personality : Amato
- National parliaments : Stuart or Bruton
- Complementary competences : Christophersen
- Economic governance : Hänsch.

It was further agreed that each working group Chairman would prepare for the Praesidium a short paper describing the approach to be followed in the group.

Topics for other working groups, notably in the field of foreign policy and JAI, would be identified following the debate in the plenary in June.

4. The Forum and the Convention session devoted to civil society

On the basis of the note by the Vice-Chairman Dehaene and of its oral presentation, the Praesidium took stock of the activities carried out within the Forum and was informed about the modalities for the June session devoted to civil society. It was agreed that the designated Convention Observers have a specific position in relation to the dialogue with civil society and would therefore be given the possibility to address the Convention. Vice-Chairman Dehaene also referred to the meetings of NGOs and other organisation representing civil

society organised by ECOSOC, which could also allow participants to identify spokesmen to address the Convention.

The Praesidium stressed the need to ensure that the session devoted to civil society be lively and interesting. It was agreed that the members of the Convention could intervene in the debate with the blue card.

4. Consultation of students on the future of Europe

The Praesidium noted with interest the proposal put forward by four members of the Convention.

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The next Praesidium Meeting will take place on 8 May, at 10h30.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 8 May 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Convention session of 23-24 May

The Praesidium agreed that two papers would be forwarded to the Convention with a view to preparing the debate : one on "Competences" (new expanded version of the CONV 17/02, taking into account elements emerging from the April session), and a second one on "Instruments" (the Secretariat draft, amended on the basis of the Praesidium discussion).

The paper on National Parliaments would need further elaboration and would then be circulated later.

2. Convention session devoted to civil society

In order to allow for more time for preparation, the session devoted to civil society would be the entire second session of June (24-25.06.02). The Praesidium agreed that the session would be organised according to the modalities set out in the Secretary General's paper dated 7 May. It decided however to add a seventh contact group on culture. The contact groups would be chaired as follows :

Social	Mr Hänsch
Environmental	Ms Katiforis
Human Rights	Mr Vitorino
Development	Mr Christophersen
Academia	Vice-President Amato
Regional/Sub-Regional groups	Ms Palacio
Culture	Mr Peterle

One or two other members of the Convention would be invited to play a part; all the other members would of course be welcome to attend these hearings.

3. Working groups

The Praesidium agreed the mandate of the six working groups (attached). As to the presidency and to the deadlines, it agreed the following :

- Subsidiarity : Mendez de Vigo (September)
- Charter : Vitorino (November)
- Legal personality : Amato (November)
- National parliaments : Stuart (November)
- Complementary competences : Christophersen (October)
- Economic governance : Hänsch (October).

This information would be given to the Convention on 23 May. The working groups would be established on 6-7 June. The Secretariat would issue a document containing the mandates, specifying the deadlines and indicating how members of the Convention could volunteer. They could indicate in order of priority their (two or three) preferences for working groups in order to allow the Praesidium to decide of the composition of each working group, with a view to achieving a balance between the different components and nationalities.

The Praesidium was informed of the names of the members of the Secretariat who will assist the working groups :

- Subsidiarity : *Arpio (02-285.6183), De Poncins (02-285.5112)*
- Charter: *Ladenburger (02-285.5057), Bartol (02-285.6694)*
- Legal personality : *Passos (02-285.5049), Bribosia (02-285.5047)*
- National Parliaments : *van den Heuvel (02-285.8503), de Peyron (02-285.9816)*
- Complementary competences : *Martinez (02-285.5061), Schiavo (02-285.5972)*
- Economic governance : *Pilette (02-285.8989), Milton (02-285.8519).*

The Chairpersons of the working groups will prepare, with their assistance, the papers aimed at introducing the debate in the working groups.

The Praesidium agreed that other working groups (notably on foreign and defence policy and JAI) would be set up in July.

4. The note of the Secretariat on "Contributions" was endorsed, and the Budget report noted.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

5. Note on the missions of the Union by Mr Katiforis

The Praesidium had a first exchange of views on this note, for which the President thanked Mr Katiforis.

6. Consultation of students on the future of Europe

This proposal will be discussed at a future meeting of the Praesidium.

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The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 22 May, at 16h00.

SN 2252/02

Draft mandates for working groups

- (i) How can compliance with the principle of subsidiarity be monitored in the most effective manner possible? Should a monitoring mechanism or procedure be established? Should this procedure be of a political and/or legal nature?
- (ii) If it is decided to incorporate the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Treaty: how should this be done and what would be the consequences? What would be the implications of accession by the Community/Union to the European Convention on Human Rights?
- (iii) What would be the consequences of explicit recognition of the EU's legal personality? And of a merger of the Union's legal personality with that of the European Community? Could these contribute to the simplification of the Treaties?
- (iv) How is the role of national Parliaments exercised in the current architecture of the European Union? What national arrangements function best? Is there a need to consider new mechanisms/procedures at national level or at European level?
- (v) How should "complementary" competences be dealt with in future: should Member States be given back full competence in respect of those matters for which the Union currently has complementary competence, or should the limits of the Union's complementary competence be clearly set out?
- (vi) The introduction of the single currency implies more thorough-going economic and financial cooperation. What forms might such cooperation take?

LA CONVENTION EUROPEENNE

Bruxelles, le 30 avril 2002

L'ADJOINTE AU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

SN 2252/02**Projet de mandats des groupes de travail**

- i) Comment assurer de la manière la plus efficace le contrôle du respect du principe de subsidiarité ? Faut-il créer un mécanisme ou une procédure de contrôle ? Cette procédure doit-elle être de nature politique et/ou judiciaire?
- ii) Si l'on décide d'insérer la Charte des droits fondamentaux dans le Traité : par quelles modalités convient-il de le faire et quelles en seraient les conséquences? Quelles seraient les conséquences d'une adhésion de la Communauté/Union à la Convention européenne des Droits de l'Homme ?
- iii) Quelles seraient les conséquences d'une reconnaissance explicite de la personnalité juridique de l'UE? Et celles d'une fusion de la personnalité juridique de l'Union et celle de la Communauté européenne ? Peuvent-elles contribuer à la simplification des traités ?
- iv) De quelle façon est exercé le rôle des Parlements nationaux dans l'actuelle architecture de l'Union européenne ? Quels sont les arrangements nationaux qui fonctionnent le mieux ? Est-il nécessaire d'envisager de nouveaux mécanismes/procédures au niveau national ou au niveau européen ?
- v) Comment traiter à l'avenir les compétences dites « complémentaires »: convient-il de rendre aux Etats membres toute compétence pour les matières dans lesquelles actuellement l'Union a une compétence complémentaire, ou faut-il expliciter les limites de la compétence complémentaire de l'Union ?
- vi) La mise en place de la monnaie unique implique une coopération économique et financière plus poussée. Quelles formes une telle coopération pourrait-elle prendre ?

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 22 May 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Handling of the Convention session of 23-24 May 2002

The Praesidium agreed that :

- the Convention should have a tea-break, in order to allow members of the Praesidium and of the Convention to have informal contacts;
- on Friday morning at the opening of the session, a quarter of an hour would be devoted to a "question-time" so that members of the Convention would have the opportunity to address questions to the Praesidium. This item would from now on regularly be put on the agenda of the Convention sessions.

2. Presentation by each Working Group Chairperson of her/his plans concerning the scope and handling of the Working Group

- The Praesidium had an exchange of views on the short papers put forward by the Chairs, and agreed that, once some had been amended in order to take account of the discussion in the Praesidium, all would be circulated simultaneously to the members of the Working Groups as introductory papers by the Chairpersons.

- On practical modalities for Working Groups, the Praesidium took note of a Secretariat note in particular on questions of access to Working Group meetings for collaborators, press and public. It was agreed that members of the Working Group should be entitled to bring one collaborator. As to press and public, the Secretariat had suggested a liberal approach: "auditions" should in any case be open, and so might most meetings (provided appropriate meeting rooms could be found), though it would be important to preserve the possibility of "closed door" meetings, if accommodation difficulties made this necessary, and when reports were being considered. The President thought it best to leave the matter to the discretion of each Working Group Chair.

3. Themes to be discussed at the 6-7 June Convention session

After discussion, the Praesidium agreed the following agenda:

- Thursday afternoon: JAI
- Friday morning: Role of National Parliaments.

The Praesidium thought that both debates should be on the basis of discussion papers, and noted that the Secretariat had distributed to Praesidium members, copies of the two texts required. The latter was a shortened version of the paper on National Parliaments which the Praesidium had considered on 8 May: it had been amended to reflect their discussion. The former, on JAI, had not previously been considered by the Praesidium: Praesidium members agreed that it would be submitted to a written approval procedure: deadline for comments, mid-day on 29 May (given the need for the final version to be issued to the Convention by 31 May).

4. A.O.B.

- The Praesidium agreed to cancel the meeting foreseen for 30 May.

- The Praesidium was informed by Ms Palacio of the recommendation expressed by Women's Organisations, at a meeting held at the European Parliament that morning, concerning the gender balance in the Working Groups.

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The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 5 June, at 16h30.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 5 June 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Handling of the Convention session of 6-7 June

a) Debate on JAI and Role of National Parliaments

The Praesidium noted that the session was well prepared: both the background papers and the question papers had been circulated to the members of the Convention.

b) Working groups

- Composition

The Praesidium was provided with draft lists of members for the six working groups. These lists had been established by the Secretariat on the basis of the first preference and, in few cases of the second preference expressed by members of the Convention.

The number of participants in each working group was around 30 and the balance between components, nationalities and political groups was generally satisfactory. Under these conditions the Praesidium decided that a document would be issued to the Convention before the session containing these lists in alphabetical order, without any specification (doc. CONV 77/02). Should any member of the Convention express dissatisfaction, some flexibility could be shown by the Chairmen on a bilateral basis and a renewed list could then be issued.

- Working methods

The Praesidium agreed that Chairmen of working groups would not be required to report regularly to the Praesidium. However the Praesidium was responsible for ensuring the consistency of the outcome of the working groups; it would be up to each Chairperson to

assess the developments in his/her working group deserving reporting to the Praesidium.

As to the final product, it was agreed that working groups would not establish draft texts for the treaties, but would rather prepare reports to the Convention containing the main elements of the analysis carried out and the options identified to respond to the questions submitted to them.

As to practical arrangements, difficulties with availability of meeting rooms and teams of interpreters led to the conclusions that working groups would be encouraged to adopt a pragmatic approach. Active interpretation into French and English would be provided with passive interpretation according to specific needs in each working group. It would be for each Chairman to identify the arrangements needed.

Working groups may invite experts but this should not imply any cost for the Convention budget.

- Exhaustive list of working groups

The Praesidium discussed how to respond to requests for a complete master plan of working groups expressed by M. Borrel on behalf of National Parliaments and by the German members of the Convention.

The Praesidium agreed that it was desirable to stick to the working method adopted so far, which allowed the Convention itself, by its debates, to identify the specific issues to be examined in depth by the working groups. An exhaustive list was therefore impossible to provide at this stage. However, in order to meet the concerns of a large number of *conventionnels*, the Chairman could provide the Plenary with some preliminary indications about the areas in which specific questions could be identified requiring the setting up of working groups (JAI, Foreign and defence policy, Simplification of the Treaties, Institutional questions).

2. Preparation for the Convention Session on 24/25 June

The Praesidium had a further exchange of views on the role of the contact groups.

It agreed that:

- contact groups provided an opportunity to NGOs and other organisations to get directly in contact with members of the Presidium and other members of the Convention;
- participants in contact groups should be informed about the work of the Convention so far and encouraged to focus on issues that are genuinely pertinent to the Convention and could therefore usefully read the background papers forwarded to the Convention; in particular CONV 47/02 and CONV 50/02.
- they would be informed about the programme for the session of 24-25 June and invited to designate a few representatives which would take the floor; each contact group would be granted 25/30 minutes (which could be divided between the designated speakers).
Following these speeches, 15 minutes would be granted to interventions by members of the Convention, including those wishing to react and comment (blue card). Contact groups would also be informed of the facilities provided in the margins of the session in the Parliament building (meeting rooms and stands).
- As to the follow-up, while it was felt unwise to take any commitment at this stage for a second session devoted to civil society, it was agreed that Chairmen of contact groups might indicate, if necessary, that further meetings of contact groups could be organised. In any case participants in contact groups should be reminded that they may submit written contributions to the Forum web site.

Members of the Convention should be encouraged to participate both in the contact groups and in the Plenary session. They had been reminded, in doc; CONV 79/02 that they should provide the session with reports on the national debates.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 13 June 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation for Convention session on 24-25 June

The Praesidium heard a report by Vice President Dehaene about preparations of this session and the meetings of contact groups which had already taken place. The assessment of these meetings was very satisfactory.

The Praesidium approved the programme prepared for the session (attached). It noted with concern that despite two reminders issued by the Secretariat on the need for reports on national debates, the Secretariat had not so far received any such report.

2. Preparation for the Youth Convention
- report by the Secretariat

The Praesidium noted the list of participants of the Youth Convention selected by the different components (still a few names missing). It noted with satisfaction that the balance in numbers between women and men was in favour of women and considered that it would then be logical for the Youth Convention to elect a woman as Chairperson. The Praesidium also hoped that such a Chairperson would not come from the "Brussels-based machinery".

3. Chairman's report to European Council

The Chairman informed the Praesidium that his oral report to the European Council would be a factual description of the proceedings of the Convention and of the first elements emerging from the debate. This oral report would be followed by a short discussion with Heads of State and Government, on which the Chairman would report to the next Praesidium meeting.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

4. Second wave of working groups

After discussion, the Praesidium agreed to announce in July the creation of the next wave of working groups. Their mandates would be discussed and agreed by the Praesidium before the summer holidays; their composition would be decided in September, and they would then start work, but not necessarily all at the same time. The first wave of working groups should try to report to the Convention as soon as possible, ideally in September.

The Chairman suggested that the next wave could include working groups discussing specific questions in the following areas:

- Freedom, Security and Justice
- External action
- Defence policy
- Development Aid
- Simplification of instruments
- Simplification of legislative procedure
- The Regional and sub-regional dimension.

The list would be further discussed at the Praesidium's meeting, on 25 June, when the Praesidium would also discuss the mandate for the Freedom, Security and Justice group, on the basis of a revised draft (attached) proposed by Mr Vitorino.

5. Any Other Business

The Secretariat circulated to the Praesidium two documents (attached)

- an extended version of the document (CONV 50/02) on Instruments which the Convention discussed on 23/24 May. The Praesidium was invited to endorse the extended version by a silence procedure ending on Friday, 21 June, before its circulation to the Convention;
- a background document for the Working Group on the “Charter”, which was noted.

* * *

The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 25 June, at 17h00.

SCHÉMA POUR L'ORDRE DU JOUR

Lundi 24 juin 2002

- 14h30 Présentation du rapport au Chefs d'État et gouvernement par le Président Giscard d'Estaing
- 15h15 Présentation de la séance par le vice-président DEHAENE
- 15h35 Groupe de contact " Secteur social " précédé d'une présentation á charge de M. Klaus HAENSCH et suivi des interventions des observateurs partenaires sociaux
- 16h35 Groupe de contact "Environnement" précédé d'une présentation á charge de M. Giorgos KATIFORIS
- 17h20 **Pause**
- 18h00 Intervention des observateurs du Comité Économique et Social
- 18h30 Groupe de contact "Universités et laboratoires d'idées" e M. Giuliano AMATO
- 19h15 Groupe de contact "Citoyens et institutions" précédé d'une présentation á charge de M. Jean-Luc DEHAENE

Mardi 25 Juin 2002

- 9h30 Groupe de contact "Régions et autorités locales" précédé d'une présentation à charge de Mme. Ana PALACIO et des interventions des observateurs du Comité des Régions
- 10h45 Groupe de contact "Droits de l'homme" précédé d'une présentation à charge de M. Antonio VITORINO
- 11h30 Groupe de contact "Développement" précédé d'une présentation à charge de M. Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN
- 12h15 Groupe de contact "Culture" précédé d'une présentation à charge de M. PETERLE
- 13h00 **Clôture**

- Time table -

Lundi 24 juin 2002

14h30	Présentation du rapport au Chefs d'État et gouvernement par le Président	30 min.
15h00	Conventionnels	15 min.
15h15	Présentation de la séance par le vice-président DEHAENE	20 min
15h35	Klaus HAENSCH	5 min.
15h40	Groupe de contact " Secteur social "	25 min
16h05	<u>Interlocuteurs sociaux</u> Emilio GABAGLIO (CES)	5 min.
	Georges JACOBS (UNICE)	5 min.
	Joao CRAVIHNO (CEEP)	5 min.
16h20	Conventionnels	15 min.
16h35	KATIFORIS	5 min.
16h40	Groupe de contact "Environnement"	25 min.
17h05	Conventionnels	15 min.
17h20	Pause	
18h00	<u>CES</u> Göke FRERICHS	5 min.
	Roger BRIESCH	5 min.
	Anne-Marie SIGMUND	5 min.
18h15	Conventionnels	15 min.
18h30	Giuliano AMATO	5 min.
18h35	Groupe de contact "Universités et laboratoires d'idées"	25 min.
19h00	Conventionnels	15 min.
19h15	DEHAENE	5 min.
19h20	Groupe de contact "Citoyens et institutions"	25 min.
19h45	Conventionnels	15 min.
20h00	réserve de temps pour les débats nationaux	30 min.

Mardi 25 Juin 2002

9h30	Ana PALACIO	5 min.
9h35	<u>CdeR</u>	
	Eduardo ZAPLANA	5 min.
	Jos CHABERT	5 min.
	Patrick DEWAEL	5 min.
	Manfred DAMMEYER	5 min.
	Claude DU GRANRUT	5 min.
	Claudio MARTINI	5 min.
10h05	Groupe de contact "Régions et autorités locales"	25 min.
10h30	Conventionnels	15 min.
10h45	Antonio VITORINO	5 min.
10h50	Groupe de contact "Droits de l'homme"	25 min.
11h15	Conventionnels	15 min.
11h30	CHRISTOPHERSEN	5 min.
11h35	Groupe de contact "Développement"	25 min.
12h00	Conventionnels	15 min.
12h15	PETERLE	5 min.
12h20	Groupe de contact "Culture"	25 min.
12h45	Conventionnels	15 min.
13h00	Clôture	

Le temps réservé pour les conventionnels est de 135 minutes (9 tranches de 15 minutes) à distribuer entre les composantes sous la responsabilité des membres du Praesidium comme suit:

22 orateurs des Parlements nationaux (2 / 3 orateurs par tranche)

14 orateurs des gouvernements (1 / 2 orateurs par tranche)

8 orateurs du Parlement européen (1 orateur par tranche)

1 orateur de la Commission (Barnier, vu que Vitorino fera la présentation de son groupe de contact)

Proposition de M. Vitorino pour quelques modifications au projet de mandat du Groupe JAI

Projet
MANDAT JAI

Quelles améliorations serait-il nécessaire d'apporter aux traités afin de favoriser la véritable mise en place d'un espace de liberté, sécurité et justice dans toutes ses composantes ?

Et notamment, quelles améliorations serait-il nécessaire d'apporter aux instruments et aux procédures ?

Comment pourrait-on, par exemple, mieux identifier les questions dans le domaine pénal qui appellent une action au niveau de l'Union? Selon quelles modalités serait-il possible d'accroître la coopération judiciaire pénale ?

Quelles adaptations pourrait-on apporter aussi au texte des dispositions du Traité définissant la compétence communautaire notamment en matière d'immigration et asile?

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 25 June 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Report to the Seville European Council

The Praesidium was informed by the Chairman about his meeting with the European Council.

2. Preparation for the Convention session of 11-12 July

The Praesidium examined the draft discussion paper on EU external relations prepared by the Secretariat, including the new section describing the issues to be discussed and identifying areas for reflection.

It agreed that members of the Praesidium would forward their comments or suggested amendments in writing to the Secretariat by Friday 28 June, in order to enable it to circulate an amended version to the Convention in the course of next week.

In terms of agenda, it was agreed that the session of 11 July would be devoted to External Relations; the session of 12 July would first hear the report of the Youth Convention and then would have a short debate on Defence.

3. Assessment of the Convention session devoted to Civil Society

The Praesidium noted that the session had been successful and in particular that contact groups had proved particularly useful in getting the organisations representing the Civil Society to decide how to allocate their time to address the Convention, and in helping them make contact with Praesidium and Convention members. Some useful messages had emerged from the session. The Chairmen of the contact groups would assess the usefulness of convening further meetings (Ms Palacio and Mr Amato informed the Praesidium that they had already announced that their contact groups would continue to meet).

4. Working group on Security and Justice

On the basis of Mr Vitorino's proposed amendments to the initial draft, the Praesidium agreed the mandate for the group (noting that points raised by Mr Hänsch would be covered in its discussions).

5. Preparation of the Youth Convention

The Praesidium took note with satisfaction of the programme for this session. Members of the Praesidium agreed that they would attend the opening on 10 July at 10h30.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

6. Further working groups

The Praesidium discussed, on the basis of the Chairman's proposals, the setting up of further working groups. After careful consideration, it was agreed that four working groups would be announced at the July session; in addition to Security and Justice, three groups would be entrusted with the examination of specific questions in the fields of external action, defence, and simplification of the legislative procedures (the mandate of the latter group would also cover the simplification of instruments). It was noted that the setting up of further working groups, at a later stage, was not excluded, should further needs emerge from the Convention's debates.

Concerning the requests by a number of Convention members for the early preparation of the draft text of a "Traité constitutionnel", on the basis of which the Convention could work, the Praesidium discussed how best to ensure the optimum Convention outcome. They felt that the ambition of the Convention, in terms of credibility and of impact on the following IGC, should indeed be the drafting of a "Traité constitutionnel"; but, following discussion, the Praesidium confirmed that they thought the process of examining first the "what" and "why" questions, then the "how" questions, and finally the "who" (i.e. institutional) questions, remained the right one. In the light of the next plenary debates (on external action and, perhaps on 12-13 September, on simplification), as well as the results of the first working groups (in particular on subsidiarity, legal personality and Charter), the Praesidium might, around October, be able to produce a first sketch of a general framework into which the various building blocks would fit.

It was thought that it would be useful for the Chairman to give the Convention, at the 11-12 July session, an outline of this thinking.

7. Any Other Business

The Praesidium briefly discussed the question how the Convention and its work could be brought to wider public attention. The major responsibility lay with national authorities; however, some initiatives could be envisaged, in particular in connection with subsequent phases of the Convention.

* * *

The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 10 July, at 16h00.

P.M. Members of the Praesidium should also see the attached note, relevant to point 5. above, from Ms Berger, on behalf of 9 titulaires and 9 suppléants members of the Convention.

THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION

Brussels, 26 June 2002

The Secretariat

NOTE

for the attention of the Praesidium

Subject : Motion for an additional item on the agenda of the July session

Ms Maria Berger, alternate member of the Convention, submitted, on the afternoon of 26 June, the attached motion for an additional item for the agenda of the July session. Receipt of the motion, signed by eighteen members (list attached), has been acknowledged.

According to article 2 of the Convention « Working methods » paper, the Praesidium shall add a subject to the draft agenda when a request is made in writing one week before the relevant session by a “significant number of members ». One could discuss whether 18 is a significant number. But since Ms Berger's request is likely to be followed by others, or supported by other signatories, it might be preferable to accept the item for the agenda, and to take the opportunity to explain to the Convention the approach adopted by the Praesidium on 25 June, with Convention debates leading to Working Groups, which in turn produce building blocks, and the Convention receiving from the Praesidium, perhaps in October, a first outline of the framework into which they would fit.

To the
Secretary General of the Convention
Sir John Kerr

Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Bruxelles

Please find attached a motion for an additional item on the agenda of our July meeting. This motion has been signed by 18 Members of the Convention. May I also ask to confirm the receipt of our motion.

Yours

Maria Berger
on behalf of all the signatories

Proposal to the Presidium of the Convention

We, the undersigned Members of the Convention, in accordance with Article 2 of the Rules of Procedures ask the Presidium of the Convention to prepare a decision of the Convention, to be taken at its July meeting, as follows

- The Convention invites the European Commission to prepare until October a draft constitutional treaty. A first draft should be discussed by the Convention at its meeting at the end of October.
- This draft should base itself on the proposals of the European University Institute, Florence and on the results of the Convention debates so far, in particular
 - the objectives of the Union
 - the division of powers between the Union and its Members states
 - the reform of the CFSP
 - the reform in the area of Justice and Home Affairs
 - the reform of decision-making
 - the simplification of the treaty itself and its legal and policy instruments, including the dissolution of the three pillar concept and combining the existing treaties.

Where there are still no or no clear results of the Convention and its working groups, the draft treaty may leave blanks or suggest options. Furthermore, the draft treaty should be divided in two parts (fundamental/non fundamental provisions). The European Commission may ask whoever it considers necessary and useful to assist in this work.

Name

Signature

Please return undersigned lists to Maria Berger, ASP 15 G 346, European Parliament.

List of signatories

MEMBERS:

1. Paraskevas Avgerinos
2. Elio Di Rupo
3. Olivier Duhamel
4. Caspar Einem
5. Ben Fayot
6. Slavko Gaber
7. Silvia Kaufmann
8. Jan Kavan
9. Ann Van Lancker

ALTERNATE:

1. Robert Badinter
2. Pervanche Beres
3. Maria Berger
4. Carlos Carnero Gonzalez
5. Jan Kohnt
6. Eva Lichtenberger
7. Marie Nagy
8. Elena Paciotti
9. Adrian Severin

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 10 July 2002

POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation of the Convention session of 11-12 July and Working groups

- External Action and Defence

The Praesidium noted that the descriptive document on EU External Action had been circulated to members of the Convention (CONV 161/02) and that the questions contained in it should assist in structuring the debate.

- Working groups

As to working groups, the Praesidium confirmed its agreement on the setting up of four new working groups, the first on 'security and justice' (for which the mandate had already been circulated in doc 179/02), the second on 'external relations', the third on 'defence policy' and the fourth on 'simplification of legislative procedures'. Two suggestions for further working groups were put forward by members of the Praesidium : one on 'culture and linguistic differences' and the other one on 'good governance' : it was concluded that the former, and perhaps the latter, subject would be covered in working group V, chaired by Mr. Christophersen.

- Introductory statement

The Praesidium agreed that the Chairman should make an introductory statement before the start of the debate on External Action. The purpose of this statement would be to ensure that the Convention understood the Praesidium's thinking on working groups, and the Praesidium's "building block" approach, together with their plan to prepare, in the light of reports from the working groups on legal personality and the Charter, a framework for a constitutional Treaty, which would be put forward at the end of October.

This framework would then be fleshed out with the contributions emerging from the second wave of working groups and would then constitute the basis for the work on the Convention from the beginning of next year.

- Proposal by certain members of the Convention

As to the proposal put forward by certain members of the Convention to invite the Commission to prepare a draft constitutional treaty (item 4 of the session's agenda), the Praesidium unanimously agreed that the proposal was unacceptable since it would imply that the Convention would shirk its own responsibilities.

2. Mr. Avgerinos' letter to the Chairman and revised draft reply

The Praesidium approved the draft reply (circulated then in doc. 185/02).

3. Autumn Plenary Debates

The Praesidium agreed that the subjects for the first autumn Convention Plenary debates should be "simplification" (of the legislative procedure) on 12-13 September, and "subsidiarity" on 3-4 October. Mr Mendez de Vigo agreed to give the Convention on 12-13 September an oral preview of the likely recommendations of the subsidiarity working group, and confirmed that the groups report would be available before 3-4 October. In addition, Vice-president Amato agreed to give a similar oral preview on the issue of legal personality on 12-13 September, and Mr Vitorino agreed to give a similar presentation on the Charter on 3-4 October.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

4. Working groups Chairs

Since Ms Palacio was not present, the Praesidium agreed to postpone to its next meeting decisions on the chairs of the four new working groups.

5. Strategy discussion

The Praesidium had a preliminary exchange of views on the implications of the various options for the simplification of Treaties. It agreed to revert to this issue; some members mentioned the usefulness of hearing legal opinion on this subject.

6. Secretariat paper on public relations and visibility

The Praesidium agreed to discuss this issue at its next meeting.

* * *

The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 18 July, at 15h00
in Palais d'Egmont and will last until 22h00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 18 July 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Working groups : progress reports from Chairmen

The six Chairpersons informed the Praesidium on the progress made in their Working Groups and on the possible outcome. The Praesidium noted with satisfaction that the Subsidiarity Working Group would be able to present its report to the Convention in time for the first October session and the Legal Personality and Charter Working Groups in time for the second October session. Oral previews will be given to the Convention by Mr Mendez de Vigo in September and MM Amato and Vitorino at the first session in October. The Praesidium also noted that the orientations emerging from the Subsidiarity Working Group and the National Parliaments Working Group on the Subsidiarity mechanism should be compatible.

2. New wave of Working Groups

The Praesidium agreed the mandates for the Working Groups on "External Action", "Defence" and "Simplification of Legislative Procedures and Instruments" (see doc. CONV 206/02).

The Praesidium also agreed that the new Working Groups would be chaired as follows:

- Group VII : External Action - Vice-President Dehaene
- Group VIII: Defence - M. Barnier
- Group IX: Simplification - Vice-President Amato
- Group X: Security and Justice - Mr Bruton

3. Secretariat paper on Simplification of the Legislative Process

The Praesidium agreed that, subject to possible amendments, to be forwarded to the Secretariat by Monday 22 July, 12h00, the paper would be circulated to Convention members with a view to the September session.

In addition, the Praesidium agreed that a more detailed questionnaire should be prepared and agreed at its 5 September meeting in order to better structure the debate in the Plenary. Speakers would be invited to specify, upon inscription on the list of speakers, which questions they intended to address. Interventions would then be grouped, in the order of the questionnaire. That should assist in making the debate more focused and more lively, with increased recourse to blue and green cards.

4. Proposed replies to Letters from

- a) German Conventioneels, re linguistic regime in Working Groups**
- b) Danish Education Minister, re Youth Convention**

The draft replies were approved.

5. Monthly report on the execution of the budget

The report was noted.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

6. Secretariat paper on Public Relations and Visibility

Members of the Praesidium were invited to forward comments and/or suggestions to the Secretariat.

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The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 5 September, at 15h00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 5 September 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation of the Plenary session of 12-13 September

The Praesidium approved the agenda as well as the questionnaire for the plenary (CONV 225/02 and CONV 226/02). The Vice-Chairman Amato will introduce the debate on simplification of procedures and instruments.

2. Praesidium meetings

The Praesidium agreed that at its meeting on 17 October (at Val Duchesse, 10h30 to 17h00) it should consider a draft of the Treaty framework to be put forward to the plenary at the end of October.

The Praesidium also agreed that more whole day meetings would be required in 2003.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

3. Simplification of the Treaties

The Praesidium had a first discussion on Treaty simplification. It was informed of the orientation that emerged from a co-ordination meeting of the European Parliament "composante". The Praesidium reached the conclusion that a text of a constitutional nature should be part of the Convention final product. The content of such constitutional text and its articulation with the rest of the provisions need further discussion. The Praesidium agreed to revert to the issue next week.

4. Second wave of working groups

Requests for inscription to working groups were still being received by the Secretariat. Since working groups will be officially established on 12 September, the Praesidium agreed to close their lists at its meeting on 11 September.

Mr Dehaene and Mr Barnier announced that they had already prepared annotated mandate documents for circulation to their respective working group. It was agreed that this procedure, as for the first wave of working groups, should be followed by all working groups: annotated mandates assist in preparing the work and better defining the scope of activities of working groups.

5. Calendar for 2003

The Praesidium received a draft calendar prepared by the Secretariat. It agreed that in early January, and before the first plenary session in 2003, it should have at least one all day session in order to make its assessment of the outcome of the autumn sessions. The Secretariat was invited to look into the possibility of one or two changes in the calendar, with a view to approval of the calendar by the Praesidium on 11 September.

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The next Praesidium meeting will take place on 11 September, at 16h00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 11 September 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Handling of the Plenary session of 12-13 September

The President informed the Praesidium of the opening statement that he intended to make stressing that there are two parallel exercises, simplification of treaties and simplification of instruments and procedures, recalling the working method with the building blocks emerging from the Working Groups' reports, and confirming that the Praesidium would put forward at the end of October a first draft for a Treaty framework.

In this perspective and given the advanced stage of the work of the Amato Working Group on Legal Personality, it was agreed that Mr. Amato would give at this session an oral presentation, after the presentation by M. Mendez de Vigo of the likely report of his Working Group on Subsidiarity, and that both Working Groups' reports would be debated in the Plenary session on 3-4 October.

2. Work programme and calendar for 2003

The Praesidium approved the work programme for the Autumn as set out in Annex, Mrs Stuart having agreed that her Working Group on National Parliaments could complete its work on the new, accelerated timing. There would thus be two one-day Plenary debates on Working Group reports at each remaining session this year. The Praesidium however thought it best not to circulate the work programme to the Convention at this stage: the President would instead describe it, up to end October in his opening remarks.

The Praesidium approved the revised calendar for 2003, which was then circulated to the Convention (doc. CONV 262/02).

3. Working Groups

a) Composition

The lists of members of the four new Working Groups were approved and then circulated to the Convention (see doc. CONV 243/02).

b) “Final product” of Working Groups

It was agreed that Working Groups should produce synthetic reports containing recommendations or options, as precise as possible, but should refrain from drafting Treaty articles, since, in order to ensure consistency, those should only be drafted by the Praesidium in the light of the outcome of Plenary debates on all the building blocks, as well as on the Treaty framework.

II. OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

4. Treaty simplification

The Praesidium continued its discussion about Treaty simplification. It agreed to pursue this issue at its next meetings with a view to the establishment of its first draft of a Treaty framework. The meeting of 17 October would start at 9 a.m. and end around 2 p.m., and would be held at Val Duchesse.

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Next meeting will take place on 26 September at 15h00.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME OF WORK

September 12-13 :

- Simplification of Procedures and Instruments
- Oral presentation by Mendez de Vigo on Subsidiarity
- Oral presentation by Amato on Legal Personality

October 3-4 :

- Debate on Legal Personality on the basis of working group report
- Debate on Subsidiarity on the basis of the working group report
- Oral presentation by Vitorino on the Charter
- Oral presentation by Ms Stuart on National Parliaments

October 28-29 :

- Presentation by Praesidium of first outline Treaty framework
- Debate on the Charter on the basis of the working group report
- Debate on National Parliaments on the basis of the WG report
- Oral presentations by Christophersen on Complementary competences and Hänsch on Economic Governance

November 7-8 :

- Debate on Complementary competences on the basis of the working group report
- Debate on Economic Governance on the basis of the working group report
- Oral presentation by Amato on Simplification of procedures and instruments
- Oral presentation by Bruton on Security and Justice

December 5-6 :

- Debate on Security and Justice on the basis of the working group report
- Debate on Simplification of procedures and instruments on the basis of the working group report
- Oral presentation by Dehaene on External Action
- Oral presentation by Barnier on Defence

December 20-21 :

- Debate on External Action on the basis of the working group report
- Debate on Defence on the basis of the working group report

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Deadlines for Working Groups

Working Group I	Subsidiarity : September
Working Group II	Charter : October
Working Group III	Legal personality: end September
Working Group IV	National Parliaments: November
Working Group V	Complementary competences : October
Working Group VI	Economic Governance : October
Working Group VII	External Action : early December
Working Group VIII	Defence : early December
Working Group IX	Simplification of instruments and procedures : November
Working Group X	Security and Justice : November

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 26 September 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation of the plenary session of 3-4 October

a) outcome of Working groups on legal personality (draft report in working document 29/02 of WG III) and on subsidiarity (doc. CONV 286/02)

The Praesidium congratulated Mr. Amato and Mr. Mendez de Vigo for the work carried out by the working groups on Legal Personality and Subsidiarity.

The Praesidium welcomed the substance of the recommendations emerging from these working groups, in particular:

- the attribution of a single legal personality to the E.U., which could also facilitate the merge of the EC and EU Treaties;
- the early warning mechanism which allows greater involvement of national Parliaments.

The Praesidium had an exchange of views on elements of the reports which could give rise to some difficulty or criticism in Plenary. In particular, were mentioned:

- as to the Legal Personality working group report, the elements concerning the competence of the Court of Justice on all external agreements, the negotiation of “cross-pillar” agreements and external representation;
- as to the Subsidiarity working group report, the link between the early warning and the right of appeal to the Court of Justice, the question whether the right of early warning should be given to whole Parliaments or just to one Chamber, and the attribution to the

Committee of the Regions of a right of appeal to the Court.

The Praesidium agreed that, once the reports were forwarded to Members of the Convention, it would be for the Plenary to discuss them. However, the Praesidium had a key role in drawing conclusions from such debates with a view to the subsequent detailed definition of the resulting building blocks.

- b) Motions to the Praesidium, requesting**
- a plenary debate on the issue of a “social Europe”
 - the setting up of a working group on a “social Europe”
(motions by Mr Voggenhuber, Ms Van Lancker and Ms Kaufmann).

The Praesidium agreed that the motions should be put on the agenda of the next Plenary Session, on 3rd October, as a specific item, in order to allow for a procedural discussion (see docs. CONV 300/02 and CONV 302/02).

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- **Preview of Working groups on Charter and National Parliaments**
- **Treaty simplification**

The Praesidium agreed to revert to these issues at its next meeting.

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Next meeting will take place on the 2nd October, 15h00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 2 October 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation of the plenary session of 3-4 October

- **previews of Working groups on Charter and National Parliaments**

The Praesidium heard oral presentations by Mme Stuart and Mr Vitorino of the state of play in the Working groups they chair. It also took note of a letter from Mr Katiforis to the President explaining his position as regards the subsidiarity working group report.

- **handling of Motions on Social Europe (CONV 300/02)**

The Praesidium having noted that some social aspects were being discussed within the Economic Governance working group, agreed that, following a short procedural debate in the 3 October plenary, the President would suggest that a debate would take place at the November plenary in connection with the debate on the report of the Economic Governance working group.

The need for a specific working group would be assessed in the light of that debate.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- **Treaty simplification**

The Praesidium continued its discussion on the architecture of the new Treaty, as well as on the possible content of the constitutional part.

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Next meeting will take place on the 17 October, 9h00.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 17 October 2002**

I. POINTS SETTLED

Preparation of the plenary session of 28-29 October

The Praesidium agreed the agenda for the session.
(doc. CONV 352/02)

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUE

Treaty “Framework” draft

The President presented to the Praesidium his preliminary draft for a Treaty framework.

The Praesidium welcomed the draft, proceeded to an exchange of views, and agreed to revert to the matter on the basis of a revised text established by the Secretariat in the light of their discussion.

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The next meeting will take place on 24 October, at 21h00. (The place of the meeting will be announced as soon as possible together with the agenda.)

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium

Brussels, 28 October 2002

POINTS SETTLED

1. Working method for institutional questions

The Praesidium agreed that Institutional questions should be discussed at Plenary sessions rather than in Working Groups. A first Plenary debate early in the New Year, on the overall institutional balance, would be appropriate; the Praesidium should exercise its role in structuring the debate; to that effect it should prepare a paper, noting the different proposals put forward, suggesting principles, and identifying questions to be addressed.

2. Preparation of the Plenary session of 7/8 November

The Praesidium approved the agenda for the next session (see doc. CONV 373/02) and agreed on the need for a questionnaire aimed at structuring the debate. The Secretariat's draft would be adjusted in contact with Mr Hänsch. (This was subsequently done: see doc. CONV 374/02).

3. Regional Working Group

The Praesidium had an exchange of views on the proposals contained in the contribution by Mr Kiljunen and others, circulated in doc. CONV 321/02. It noted that some were picked up in the report of Working Group IV (National Parliaments), and that the contact

group chaired by Vice-President Dehaene had recently met, and would meet again at the beginning of next year.

4. Letter by President COX

The Praesidium took note of a letter addressed to the President by the President of the European Parliament, concerning costs resulting from the three sites of the European Parliament.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

5. Suggestion for a "deliberative poll"

Vice-President Amato asked the Praesidium to consider a paper describing a proposal to organise, in summer 2003, with the support of the larger TV networks, an event involving citizens of all countries participating in the Convention, with a view to promoting acceptance and support for the proposals put forward by the Convention.

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The next meeting will take place on 6 November, at 15h00.

p.m. Consideration could be given as to whether the meeting of the Praesidium foreseen for 28 November will in practice be required, in addition to the meeting foreseen for 21 November.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 6 November 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Assessment of the preliminary debate on the draft Treaty framework and follow-up

The Praesidium felt that the preliminary debate, which would continue on Friday 8 November, had so far proved that the architecture of the draft treaty was broadly accepted by the Convention, since most comments only referred to the content or possible content of specific provisions.

It was confirmed that from the beginning of 2003, in the light of the outcome of the debate in plenary on the Working Groups' recommendations, the Praesidium would draft sections of the treaty to be put forward to the Convention. It was also confirmed that institutional questions would be discussed in Plenary, not in working groups, and that the discussion should be initiated on the basis of a paper prepared by the Praesidium, with the support of the Secretariat, aimed at structuring the debate.

2. Preparation of the session on 7-8 November

The Praesidium heard from Mr Hänsch and Mr Christophersen a presentation of the reports of their Working Group, and agreed that it would need to reflect carefully in the light of comments offered in plenary on elements which could then be translated into Treaty language. The Praesidium considered that the debate in plenary as regards "Social Europe" would also be important. The Praesidium would need to assess at its next meeting what could be done in order to meet concerns expressed.

3. Spring day in 2003

The Praesidium was informed about an initiative supported by five members (Ms A. Palacio, Mssrs M. Barnier, H. Christophersen, O. Duhamel and G. Katiforis) and financed by the Commission (Prince programme) consisting in organising on the same day next Spring discussion on Europe in all schools in each of the countries participating in the Convention.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

4. Public opinion information and consultation

The Praesidium heard a presentation by the President of the idea of organising a major one-day press campaign early in 2003 and by Vice-President Amato of the idea of organising next summer a "deliberative poll" . It agreed to revert to these issues at its next meeting.

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The next meeting will take place on 21 November, at 15h00. It is recalled that the meeting of 28 November has been cancelled.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 21 November 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Review of reactions to Preliminary ("Framework") draft (CONV 369/02)

The Praesidium had an exchange of views on the elements emerged from the preliminary debate on the Framework draft. It concluded that the overall architecture of the new Treaty was now "acquis". Comments on specific provisions and on their possible content would be addressed in the framework of the discussion of draft sections of the Treaty.

2. Preparation of the Plenary session on 5-6 December

a) Working Group on "Social Europe"

The Praesidium approved the mandate of the new Working Group (see document CONV 421/02) which would be circulated immediately, inviting members to inscribe, with a view to formally setting up the group at the 5/6 December session. Mr Katiforis was designated as Chairman. He was invited to convene the Working Group as soon as possible after 6 December in order to be able to report to the plenary early in 2003.

b) Commission communication

The Praesidium took note that the Commission will adopt its communication on 5 December. The agenda of the plenary of 5/6 December was approved providing for a presentation by President Prodi to the Convention at 15h00 on the 5th December (see document CONV 420/02).

c) Reports on Working Groups IX "Simplification" and X "Security and Justice"

The Praesidium had an exchange of views on the draft reports of Working Groups IX and X. It congratulated the two Chairs for the substantial recommendations that were emerging from the Working Groups.

3. Second December session

The Praesidium agreed that the 2nd December session would take place on Friday 20 December (whole day, starting at 9h30), rather than on 20 and 21 December.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

4. January session

The Praesidium confirmed that the first two Praesidium meetings in January would be devoted to discussion of a paper on institutions (principles and objectives) and of draft texts on “competences” and “values and objectives”. The Praesidium will decide on the agenda of the January session at its next meeting.

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The next meeting will take place on 4 December, at 15h00.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 4 December 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Plenary sessions of 5-6 December and 20 December

The Praesidium heard a presentation by Mr Amato and Mr Bruton of the reports of Working Groups IX and X. It approved a list of members of the Working Group on "Social Europe" (circulated as document CONV 445/02) and agreed that the report of this Working Group should be completed by the end of January and discussed at the plenary of 6-7 February. It was confirmed that, at the opening of the session, President Prodi would present the Commission communication to the Convention, but not the draft Treaty, which had recently been disclosed. The latter had, the Praesidium was told, no official status.

The Praesidium also heard brief previews of the possible outcomes of Working Groups VII and VIII from Mr Dehaene and Mr Barnier. It agreed that, at the 20 December session, the Praesidium would explain how it envisaged the work of the Convention proceeding in 2003; in particular Convention members should be reassured that all texts would be subject to full examination.

2. Plenary session of 20-21 January

The Praesidium agreed that this session would be devoted to a first debate on institutional issues. In parallel, the Praesidium would start drafting the first sections of the Treaty (values and objectives, and competences, which would be followed by instruments and procedures, the integration of the Charter etc.).

3. European Council

The President informed the Praesidium about the elements of his oral presentation to the European Council:

- draft Treaty framework approved by the Plenary
- recommendations of the Working Groups, on the basis of which a number of conclusions had been reached in Plenary.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

4. Public opinion information

Ms Stuart expressed reservations about the idea of a press campaign, being of the view that the President's interventions in TV programmes would be more effective and less costly.

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The next meeting will take place on 19 December, at 15h00.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 19 December 2002**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Plenary session of 20 December

- a) The Praesidium agreed that the President would present to the Convention the following Work Programme and Working Methods for 2003:
- 20/21 January: debate on the functioning of the Institutions;
 - 6/7 February: debates on the report of Working Group XI "Social Europe" and on the role of local and regional authorities;
 - in parallel, in the light of the views expressed in the plenary debate on Working Group reports, the Praesidium will be preparing its first drafts for Articles of Part I of the Constitutional Treaty. It will present these Articles in tranches: the first tranche (Titles I, II and III), by end-January for discussion in February; the second (Titles V, VII and IX) by end-February, and the third (Titles IV, VI, VIII and X) by end-March;
 - on Part II of the Treaty, the Praesidium will present to the Convention, in January, an analysis distinguishing
 - a) Articles in the present Treaties which will fall, because they will be replaced by new Articles in Part I,
 - b) Articles in the present Treaties which will be replaced by new Articles in Part II (e.g. the provisions on ex-PESC, ex-JAD),

- c) Articles in the present Treaties which will be amended, if at all, only technically, reflecting new provisions in Part I (in particular, the new classifications in Title V on "the Implementation of Union Action".) An expert Committee, drawn from the Legal Services of the three Institutions, will be asked to propose the necessary technical amendments.
- As to the Working Method which would allow all Members of the Convention to be involved in the elaboration of the different sections of the Treaty, the Praesidium agreed that once their first drafts had been presented, the procedure would depend on the Convention's reactions. If texts were broadly welcomed, a written procedure for suggesting technical amendments would apply: if, on the contrary, drafts gave rise to substantial Plenary debate, one might envisage "discussion groups" which could take forward specific issues between one Plenary and the following one. This method would ensure that the complete text, when forwarded to the Convention in April, would already reflect the further inputs of the Conventionnels.
- b) As to the Programme and Working Methods for the Praesidium, the Praesidium agreed that from 9 January on, meetings would last all day and would take place more frequently. For meetings or parts of meetings devoted to the examination of draft Articles, interpretation from and into three languages would be provided and each member of the Praesidium could be assisted by one collaborator. Drafts of Articles would be circulated in advance, and in good time.

2. Deliberative Poll

The Praesidium heard a presentation by Vice-President Amato on an initiative which could be carried out, with the support of major TV networks, between the conclusion of the Convention and the IGC. The Praesidium agreed that, although it would not officially sponsor the initiative, the organisers could be told that members of the Praesidium would be willing to participate.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

Press campaign in early 2003

The Praesidium agreed to consider at its next meeting a developed proposal for a message to be published in newspapers of all those countries participating in the Convention who so wished. They would also consider how to arrange newspaper advertisements publicising the Convention website.

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The next meeting will take place on 9 January 2003, at 10.30, at Val Duchesse.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Subject: **Meeting of the Praesidium**
 Brussels, 9 January 2003

POINTS SETTLED

1. Preparation of the Plenary session of 20/21 January

The Praesidium agreed that the Secretariat paper on the functioning of the institutions should be complemented with the Laeken questions and circulated to the Convention in order to serve as background to the Plenary debate on 20/21 January.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

2. Institutions reforms

The Praesidium had a first exchange of views on what reforms to the European Parliament, Council and Commission the Convention should recommend.

3. Competences and subsidiarity

The Praesidium started to examine draft articles on competences. It agreed to resume work on these texts at its next meeting on 16 January, during which it should also examine drafts for articles 1, 2 and 4 to 7, the objective being the circulation by end January to the Convention of the first 15 articles. Members of the Praesidium are invited to forward to the Secretariat suggested amendments to Articles 7 to 15 by Monday 13 January, 17h00.

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The next meeting will take place on 16 January 2003, at 10.30 a.m., at Justus Lipsius. One collaborator per member is entitled to attend. Interpretation will be provided.

In order to be sure of being able to provide to the Convention, by the end of January, agreed Praesidium drafts of Articles 1 to 15, the President envisages an additional meeting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday 21 January and wishes to bring forward the meeting foreseen for 30 January to 29 January (10.30 a.m.).

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 16 January 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Attendance by collaborators

The Praesidium confirmed that each Praesidium member may be assisted, during drafting sessions, by one collaborator. Collaborators cannot take the floor and must respect the confidentiality of Praesidium deliberations.

Collaborators are entitled to attend Praesidium meetings, or parts of meetings, devoted to drafting, also when the member they assist cannot participate.

2. Values

The Praesidium had an exchange of views on the basis of the Secretariat reflection note, and endorsed the approach set out in the paper.

3. The Praesidium noted the report on the execution of the budget for December 2002.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

4. Draft Articles

The Praesidium continued work on Articles 7 to 15 and begun examination of Articles 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 on the basis of the Secretariat draft.

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The next meeting will take place on 21 January 2003, from 14.30 to 17.30, in the Justus Lipsius building, and will be devoted to discussion of Articles 9.3 to 15 and Articles 1, 4, 5 and 6.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 21 January 2003

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. Draft articles

The Praesidium continued work on the draft articles on competences. Articles 10 to 15 will be examined on 29 January as well as articles 1, 5 and 6. Members of the Praesidium are invited to forward to the Secretariat their comments, and/or suggested amendments, on articles 1, 5 and 6 in writing by 24 January.

2. Regional dimension

The Praesidium agreed that a background paper for the plenary debate on regional issues would be circulated by the Secretariat and approved by written procedure.

3. Second Part of the Treaty

The draft mandate for the Legal experts of the three Institutions will be circulated by the Secretariat with a view to adoption on 29 January.

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The next meeting will take place on 29 January 2003, from 10.30 to 17.30, in the Justus Lipsius building. Following meetings will take place on

- 5 February, at 12h00;
- 14 February, at 10h30;
- 26 February, at 10h30;

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 29 January 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Mandate for the group of legal experts

The Praesidium agreed the mandate for the group of legal experts to be designated by the legal services of the three Institutions in order to assist the Convention concerning the technical adaptation of provisions to be inserted in part II of the Constitution (see annex).

It was agreed that the Praesidium would be kept regularly informed of their work and that, should the legal experts raise questions or request further guidance, the Convention Secretary-General would convey this information to the assistants of the Praesidium members.

2. Regional and local dimension

The Praesidium approved the discussion paper aimed at structuring the debate in the plenary on 7 February (see doc. CONV 518/03).

3. “Social Europe” working group

The Praesidium heard a presentation by Mr Katiforis of the recommendations emerging from the working group.

4. Working methods of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discussed its working methods. It was agreed that the Convention Secretariat would brief the Praesidium members’ assistants when circulating the new drafts and that they would be involved in the analysis of the amendments received from members of the Convention on the draft articles

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

5. Articles 7 to 15

The Praesidium completed work on the set of articles on competences. The Secretariat was instructed to prepare a revised text as well as an explanatory note for approval by the Praesidium on 5 February, with a view to their circulation to the Convention at the next plenary.

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The next meeting will take place on 5 February, at 10.30 in the Justus Lipsius building.

The following meeting will take place on 7 February from 15.00 to 18.00

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 5 February 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Titres I, II and III (articles 1 to 16)

The Praesidium reached agreement on the draft for articles 1 to 16 and instructed the Secretariat to adapt the explanatory note to the final text. The document would be handed over to the Convention members, personally at the opening of the Plenary session on 6 February and the President would introduce the draft, underlining that this is a proposal by the Praesidium and that members of the Convention have the opportunity to suggest amendments.

2. Subsidiarity Protocol

The Praesidium agreed to resume discussion on the Protocol at its next meeting.

3. “Cercle de discussion” on the Court of Justice:

- **mandate**
- **composition**

The Praesidium discussed the “*cadre des travaux*” for the discussion group: it was subsequently agreed, out of Committee, in the margins of the Plenary session, and circulated to the Convention. As to the composition of the group, the “*composantes*” would be invited to designate a few members, taking into account that the discussion group should be restricted to a limited number of members who, ideally, should be able to contribute with their specific expertise.

4. Informing the Convention of the mandate for the Group of legal experts designated by the Legal Services of the three Institutions.

The Praesidium agreed that the mandate as well as the illustrative table of articles established by the Secretariat should be circulated for the information of Convention members.

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The next meeting will take place on 14 February, at 10h30 (to discuss (a) draft Title V Articles, circulated to Praesidium members on 7 February, and (b) the draft Subsidiarity Protocol).

The following meeting will take place on Tuesday 18 February at 10h30 (to discuss Convention reactions, and amendments, to draft Titles I-III Articles).

[NB Please note the possibility of additional Praesidium meetings on 7 March and 11 April - as well as the (already planned) meetings on 26 February, 6, 13 and 27 March, and 2, 10 and 23 April.]

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 14 February 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Articles 24 et seq (Instruments)

The Praesidium reached agreement on Draft Articles 24 et seq (on instruments) with a view to the circulation to the Convention at the plenary session on 27-28 February.

It was agreed that the draft text would be introduced by a “*exposé de motifs*” explaining the general approach (with references to the Amato working group and to the plenary debate) and would also be accompanied by a commentary, article by article.

2 “Cercle de discussion” on the Court of Justice: – composition

The Praesidium agreed the composition of the “*Cercle de discussion*” (subsequently circulated in doc. 559/03).

3. Report on the execution of the budget

The Praesidium took note of the Secretary General’s report on the execution of the Budget for the month of January 2003.

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

4. Draft Articles 1 to 16

The Praesidium agreed that the plenary debate of 27-28 February on draft articles 1 to 16 would be prepared at its next meeting of 18 February, in the light of analytical fiches and a steering note by the secretariat.

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The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 18 February at 10h30 at Val Duchesse (Boulevard du Souverain, 259 – Brussels).

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 18 February 2003**

POINT SETTLED

1. Plenary session of 27/28 February

In the light of a preliminary examination of the comments and suggestions on draft Articles 1-16, the Praesidium agreed on how to structure the debate at the next plenary session (see CONV 565/03) and decided that fiches established by the Secretariat to assist analysis of the suggestions should be circulated to the Convention before the plenary (in all the official languages).

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

2. Draft Articles 1 to 16

The Praesidium agreed to continue examination of the comments and suggestions at its next meeting.

3. Subsidiarity protocol

The Praesidium discussed the text of the protocol in the light of amendments put forward by Mrs Palacio, Mrs Stuart and MM Barnier and Vitorino. It asked the Secretariat to prepare a revised version with a view to reaching final agreement at its next meeting, the aim being to circulate the draft text at the plenary session on 27/28 February.

4. Letters received from:

- Mr Duff and others
- Mrs Kaufmann and others
- Mr Kiljunen and others

The Secretariat was instructed to prepare draft replies for the next Praesidium meeting.

5. Programme of work

The Praesidium discussed a possible calendar for the presentation of groups of draft Articles in order to give the Convention drafts of all parts of the Constitutional Treaty by the end of April. The Secretary General was invited to prepare an indicative programme.

The Praesidium noted the importance of ensuring that all members of the Convention were able to make a full contribution during this key phase of its work.

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The next meeting will take place on 26 February at 10h.30 in the Justus Lipsius building.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 26 February 2003**

POINT SETTLED

1. Plenary session of 27/28 February

a) Protocols on subsidiarity/proportionality and on national parliaments

The Praesidium reached agreement on the draft texts of the two protocols with a view to their presentation to the plenary session with the accompanying explanatory note (doc. CONV 579/03).

b) Explanatory note on Articles 24 et seq

The Praesidium endorsed the explanatory note contained in doc. CONV 571/03.

c) Handling of the debate on Articles 1 to 16

The Praesidium agreed that each section of Articles would be introduced by a short presentation, explaining the arguments which have inspired the Praesidium and indicating the major themes emerging from comments/amendments, as well as first reactions by the Praesidium.

2. Method of work on draft Articles

In order to give to each member the possibility to contribute in this important phase, the Praesidium agreed to organise additional intersessional discussions. The first ones would take place on 5 and 26 March, chaired by Vice-Presidents Amato and Dehaene, and covering Articles 8 to 16 and 1 to 7, respectively.

3. Programme of work

The Praesidium agreed an indicative calendar for the presentation to the Convention of draft texts and their discussion at plenary sessions. The President would present this calendar at the opening of the 27 February session and the calendar would be circulated to all Convention members (doc. CONV 586/03).

5. Replies to letters from
- Mr Duff
- Mrs Kaufmann
- Mr Kiljunen

It was agreed that the President would reply to the letters in the light of the decisions which the Praesidium had taken about the programme and method of work.

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The next meeting will take place on 6/7 March in the Justus Lipsius building.

On 6 March the meeting will start at 10h.30 and last the whole day. On 7 March it will start at 9h.00 and end at 12h.30.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 6/7 March 2003**

POINT SETTLED

1. Articles: Finances (Title VII, Part I)

The Praesidium reached agreement on the text of draft Articles 38, 39 and 40 on the Union's finances. It agreed that these articles, together with an accompanying commentary, should be presented to the Convention at its next plenary session (doc. CONV 602/03).

OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

2. Articles: Freedom, Security and Justice (Article 31, Part I and Chapter X, Part II)

The Praesidium began an examination of draft Articles on freedom, security and justice in part II of the Treaty on the basis of a secretariat draft. It examined the text of articles 1-18, and agreed to discuss the remaining articles in Part II, together with Article 31 of Part I, at its next meeting.

3. Euratom Treaty

The Praesidium had a preliminary exchange of views on the future of the Euratom Treaty on the basis of a note prepared by the Secretariat. It took also note of a contribution by Mr Bruton on the subject. The Praesidium asked the secretariat to prepare a further short paper setting out a possible approach to the issue in the light of its discussions, and agreed to return to the subject at its next meeting.

4. Information about the work by the legal experts on Part II.

Copies of the text for Part II of the Treaty established by the group of legal experts were circulated to members of the Praesidium. It was agreed to examine this issue at the next meeting.

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The next meeting will take place on 13 March 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will start at 10h.30 and last the whole day.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 13 March 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Freedom, security and justice (draft articles 19 to 23 of Part II of the Treaty and draft article 31 of Part I)

The Praesidium reached agreement on the text of the remaining draft articles on freedom security and justice (articles 19 to 23 of Part II of the Treaty and article 31 of Part I). It agreed that these draft articles, together with an accompanying commentary, should be presented to the Convention at its plenary session on 17 March.

2. Part II of the Treaty: outcome of work of the legal experts group

Copies of the final version of the report (in two volumes) drawn up by the group of legal experts on Part II of the Treaty were circulated to members of the Praesidium. The Praesidium agreed that the report should be circulated to the Convention during its plenary session on Tuesday 18 March. The Praesidium also approved a draft explanatory covering note to accompany the report.

3. Paper setting out possible approach on Euratom

The Praesidium approved the text of a draft note to the Convention setting out a possible approach on the Euratom treaty. It agreed that this note should be circulated to the Convention during its plenary session on Tuesday 18 March.

4. Setting up of the discussion group on budgetary procedure

- mandate and composition

The Praesidium approved a note for circulation to the next plenary session of the Convention setting out a mandate for the "discussion group" on the budgetary procedure. It was agreed that the group should be composed of a limited number of Convention members with specific expertise in the subject, and that it should aim to complete its work in time for its chairman, Mr Henning Christophersen, to report to the second April plenary.

5. Plenary session of 17/18 March

The Praesidium agreed that the plenary session of 17 /18 March would begin with a brief presentation of the draft articles on the Union's finances and on the issue of freedom, security and justice. The remainder of the session would be devoted to a discussion on draft articles 24 to 33, and on the draft protocols on subsidiarity and proportionality and the role of national parliaments. The Praesidium took note of the three documents drawn up by the secretariat analysing the amendments received on these three issues, and considered that these were useful background for the plenary debate.

6. Information by :

- Vice-President Amato on the additional session on "competences" of 5 March

Vice-President Amato reported to the Praesidium on the additional session on "competences" which had taken place on 5 March. The Praesidium agreed that this had been a helpful discussion, which whilst not a substitute for the plenary debate, had served to clarify a number of issues. It agreed that further such additional sessions would be useful.

- Mr Vitorino on the discussion group on the "Court of Justice"

Mr Vitorino informed the Praesidium that the discussion group on the Court of Justice was due to finalise its report at its meeting on the morning of 17 March. The Praesidium agreed that the report should be circulated to the Convention as soon as possible thereafter.

7. Any other business

None.

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The next meeting will take place on 27 March 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will start at 10h.30 and last the whole day.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 27 March 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

- 1. Discussion on draft Articles of:**
 - **Title VI : The democratic life of the Union**
 - **Title IX : The Union and its immediate environment**
 - **Title X : Union Membership**
 - **Part III : General and Final Provisions**

The Praesidium reached agreement on the text of drafts of articles 33-37 (The democratic life of the Union), article 42 (The Union and its immediate environment), articles 43-46 (Union membership), as well as the articles on the General and Final provisions in Part III of the Constitution. It agreed that these draft articles, together with an accompanying commentary, should be presented to the Convention at its plenary session on 4 April.

- 2. Oral report by Vice-President Dehaene on the additional session of 26 March on draft articles 1 to 7**

This agenda item was postponed to a subsequent meeting.

- 3. Presentation by Mr Vitorino of the report of the discussion group on "Court of Justice"**

This agenda item was postponed to a subsequent meeting. The Praesidium noted however that an additional meeting of the discussion group was scheduled for 4 April to examine the issue of the possible extension of the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice to CFSP. This meeting was open to any interested members of the Convention.

4. Presentation by Mr Christophersen of progress in the budgetary procedure discussion group

Mr Christophersen reported that good progress was being made within the discussion group on the budgetary procedure. It was agreed that he would give a brief progress report to the next plenary session during the discussions on the draft articles on the Union's finances.

5. Own Resources

The Praesidium agreed the mandate for the discussion group to be chaired by Mr Mendez de Vigo on Own Resources (which will be circulated as CONV 654/03).

6. Preparation of plenary session of 3/4 April :

- **first indications emerging from comments received on draft articles on Finances and Freedom, security and justice;**

The Praesidium agreed that the main focus of the next plenary session would be the draft articles on Freedom, security and justice, on which a large number of comments and suggestions for amendment had been received. Fewer comments had been received on the articles on the Union's finances, on which in any case the debate would be more limited in scope given that the discussion group on the budgetary procedure was still underway.

- **draft agenda**

The Praesidium approved the agenda for the plenary session of 3/4 April (subsequently circulated as CONV 645/03).

7. Any other business

None

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The next meeting will take place on 2 April 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will start at 10h.30 and last the whole day.

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.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 10-11 April 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

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

Following a preliminary discussion on the general approach to be followed in the area of External Action and Defence, the Praesidium examined draft texts drawn up by the Secretariat. The Praesidium reached agreement on the drafts of articles 29 and 30 of Part I of the Constitution, as well as draft articles for Part II. It agreed that a full set of these articles, together with an accompanying commentary, would be presented to the Convention at its plenary session on 24-25 April.

2. List of legal bases: identification of legislative acts and within these acts, identification of those which should be subject to the legislative procedure.

On the basis of a document on the classification of legal bases drawn up by the Secretariat, the Praesidium considered which legal bases might become subject to the legislative procedure. It approved a list of proposals, which it agreed should in the first instance be sent to the Working Party of experts from the Legal Services. A full set of proposed changes would subsequently be submitted for approval by the Convention, probably within the context of its overall examination of Part II of the Constitution.

3. Agenda of the plenary session of 24-25 April

The Praesidium agreed on the agenda items which would be covered at the plenary session of 24-25 April. It decided to return to the organisation of the session at its next meeting.

4. Economic and monetary policy: suggestions for possible changes to the economic and monetary policy chapters of Part II

The Praesidium examined a number of proposals for amendments to the economic and monetary policy chapters of Part II of the Treaty, on the basis of a document drawn up by the Secretariat in the light of the results of the Working Group on Economic Governance. It reached agreement on a number of amendments to existing articles, which would be submitted for approval by the Convention.

5. Any other business

None.

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The next meeting will take place on 22 and 23 April 2003.

On 22 April, the meeting will take place at Val Duchesse (without collaborators). It will begin at 17.00 and be followed by a working dinner.

On 23 April, the meeting will take place in the Justus Lipsius building. It will begin at 09.30 and last the whole day.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 22-23 April 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

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.

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.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 14 May 2003**

POINTS SETTLED

1. Enhanced cooperation.

The Praesidium reached agreement on draft articles for Part I and III of the Constitution on enhanced cooperation. It concluded that these would be circulated to the Convention at its plenary on 15 May, and that the President would draw them to the attention of the Convention, noting that this now meant that the Convention was in possession of the full set of articles for Part I of the Constitution.

2. Democratic life of the Union - revised (Part I, articles 33 to 37).

The Praesidium discussed possible revisions to draft articles 33 to 37 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.

3. The role of national parliaments: analytical paper.

The Praesidium approved an analytical paper on the role of national parliaments, as amended, and agreed to circulate it to the Convention.

4. Revised draft Protocols on:

- **the role of national parliaments in the European Union**
- **the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality**

The Praesidium discussed possible revisions to the draft protocols on the role of national parliaments and the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, 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 revised texts of the protocols, and concluded that these would be circulated to the Convention at the same time as the consolidated set of revised articles of Part I of the Constitution.

5. Economic governance (Part III).

The Praesidium discussed possible texts of articles on tax and economic and monetary policy for Part III of the Constitution, on the basis of a paper drawn up by the Secretariat. The Praesidium requested that the Secretariat prepare revised versions of those articles which it considered required amending, and agreed to return to these articles at its next meeting.

POINTS OUTSTANDING

6. Budget (Part III).

The Praesidium agreed to postpone this point until its next meeting.

7. Social Europe: analytical paper

The Praesidium agreed to postpone this point until its next meeting.

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The next meeting will take place on 21, 22 and 23 May 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will begin each day at 10h.15 and last until late in the evening.



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.

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.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 31 May 2003**

1. Revised draft articles for Title IV of Part I of the Constitution (Institutions)

The Praesidium reached agreement on a set of revised draft articles on the Institutions Title of Part I of the Constitution, together with a draft covering explanatory note to members of the Convention. This was subsequently circulated to the Convention as CONV 770/03.

2. Any other business.

None

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The next meeting will take place on 5 June 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will begin at 10h.30.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 6 June 2003**

1. Modifications to Part I of the Constitution

The Praesidium examined possible modifications to Part I of the Constitution, based on an analysis of amendments from members of the Convention drawn up by the Secretariat. It agreed to modify the text of Part I to take into account a number of amendments with a view to presenting the revised Part I text to the plenary meeting on 11 June.

2. Other business

A text of the Part III articles on institutions was circulated to the Praesidium. It was agreed to return to this issue at the next meeting of the Praesidium on 10 June.

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The next meeting will take place on 10 June 2003 in the Justus Lipsius building. It will begin at 16h00.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 10-11 June 2003**

1. Text of Part I, Title IV (Institutions)

The Praesidium reached agreement on a revised text of the Part I institutions articles. It agreed that these would be incorporated into the consolidated Part I text (subsequently circulated as document CONV 797/03).

2. Text of Part III - Institutions

The Praesidium reached agreement on the texts of draft Part III institutions articles. It agreed that these would be circulated to the Convention as part of the consolidated Part III text.

3. Article I-36: proposal by Commissioner Vitorino

The Praesidium discussed a proposal from Commissioners Barnier and Vitorino on the drafting of Article I-36. In order to address the particular issue raised in the Commissioners' proposal, the Praesidium agreed on an amendment to the text of this article (subsequently included in the revised Part I articles (document CONV 797/03)).

4. Part III issues relevant to consensus on Part I

The Praesidium examined several issues in Part III which it considered to be relevant to achieving a consensus on Part I. As a result of its discussions, the Praesidium reached agreement on texts on the following issues:

- new horizontal clauses;
- revised articles on economic governance, regrouped in a new Section 3 bis and Section 4 of Chapter II (EMU);
- a revised draft of article III-196 on voting in CFSP;

The Praesidium agreed to submit these texts to the Convention (subsequently circulated as document CONV 805/03).

The Praesidium also agreed that, at its meeting on 26 June, it would examine further how to respond to the proposal from some members of the Convention for the creation of a Joint European External service.

It was also agreed that, in response to concerns expressed over the extension of QMV in the social field, Article 99 paragraph 1 c), d), f), and g) would remain subject to unanimity, albeit maintaining the specific enabling clause introduced by the Nice treaty.

5. Handling of Plenary session.

The Praesidium agreed that the plenary would meet the following day at 15.00 to enable the President to present the consolidated texts of Part I. The component groups should then be allowed further time to draw up positions on the proposed texts, in particular on institutions, after which the Praesidium would need to meet again to consider possible further amendments. The timing of the resumption of the plenary on 11 June would depend on developments.

6. Any Other Business

The Praesidium discussed possible amendments to the Part I text on reinforced cooperation on the basis of a note from the Secretariat. It concluded that no substantive amendments should be introduced in the text to be incorporated in the consolidated version of Part I.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 12 June 2003**

1. Preparation of revised text of Part I

Following consultations between the President and Vice-Presidents and the component groups, and in the light of the groups' proposals for amendments, the Praesidium reached agreement on revised texts on a number of articles in Part I of the Constitution, in particular in Title IV (Institutions). It agreed that these should be circulated immediately to the Convention in order to help secure a broad consensus on Part I of the Constitution (a document setting out the amendments was circulated as CONV 811/03).

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 26 June 2003**

1. Report by the President on the Thessaloniki European Council

The President reported to the Praesidium on the discussions on the Convention at the Thessaloniki European Council, which he considered had been very positive. The European Council had concluded that Parts I and II of the Constitution were now closed, but that further technical work could continue on Part III until 15 July. The President would then travel to Rome on 18 July in order to present the full consolidated texts of the Constitution to the Italian authorities.

2. Planning of remainder of work of the Convention

The Praesidium confirmed its earlier provisional arrangements for two further plenary meetings to take place on 4 July and 9-10 July.

3. Assessment of text of Parts III and IV of the Constitution in light of amendments received.

The Praesidium noted that the version of Parts I and II circulated at Thessaloniki contained several material errors, and agreed that these should be corrected in the final published consolidated version of the Constitution. The Praesidium also began a review of Part III on the basis of a document drawn up by the Secretariat in the light of the amendments received. It reached agreement on a number of corrections and technical modifications to the Part III text.

The Praesidium concluded that a revised Part III text, including both corrections and technical modifications, highlighted and listed in a cover note, should be circulated to the Convention. The cover note would also include a list of the corrections to be made to Part I. This document would serve as the basis for the discussions at the 4 July plenary. The Praesidium would thereafter complete its review of Part III, taking into account the outcome of the 4 July debate, in order to arrive at a consolidated revised Part III text for consideration by the Convention at its final plenary meeting.

4. Handling of plenary session of 4 July

The Praesidium agreed that the plenary on 4 July should be devoted to a general discussion on Part III, on the basis of the revised text. The Secretariat would also circulate, in advance of the 4 July plenary, analyses on the amendments submitted by members of the Convention.

5. Any Other Business

None

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Subject: Meeting of the Praesidium
Brussels, 8-9 July 2003**

1. Issues to be addressed following the Praesidium meeting of 26 June and the plenary session of 4 July

The Praesidium held further discussions on Part III of the Constitution on the basis of a document prepared by the Secretariat in the light of written amendments and of the debate at the 4 July plenary. On certain issues the Praesidium agreed to modify Part III (these were included in an amended text circulated as document CONV 847/03); on others it concluded that it would consult the Convention at its 9 July plenary, preferably after exchanges of views within the component groups. The Praesidium continued its discussion immediately after the 9 July plenary, and agreed on a number of additional amendments which were included in a consolidated text for presentation to the final plenary session on 10 July (document CONV 848/03).

2. Handling of plenary session of 9-10 July

The Praesidium agreed that the first day (9 July) should provide the opportunity for Convention members to react to the first amended text (CONV 847/03). On the second day (10 July) the Convention would be called upon to approve the final text as amended by the Praesidium (CONV 848/03). Members of the Convention would then be invited to sign a declaration recognising that the draft Constitution represented the outcome of the Convention's work, and that it should be submitted to the Presidency of the European Council as the foundation for the future Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe. The session would end with a family photo and a lunch offered by the President.

3. Any Other Business

None.

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