

**ADDRESS BY AYFER YILMAZ**  
**MEMBER OF TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION MEETING**  
**HELD BETWEEN 11-12 JULY 2002**  
**ON EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

Mr. President,

I won't repeat the need and merits of having a strong common foreign policy, which I think is a must if we believe in more Europe, but emphasize more on the economic dimension of the Union's external relations.

Globalisation is the key aspect of the 21st century. Besides the positive spillover effects we have to consider the possible negative effects when the decision-making is not co-ordinated. It is important to develop a common European position in order to meet the expectations for a strong presence in international matters related to crisis management and conflict prevention with financial and economic weights.

The Union has put a common coherent, comprehensive and unique approach with regard to its external relations with the rest of the world. The Union has to speak with one voice, which rests on shared values and common interest.

Concerning the conduct of the external economic relations either at the multilateral or bilateral level, the Union should continue to use its exclusive competence in favour of common and balanced interests.

By taking into account the expectations of the citizens, the complexity of the economics in general, its social dimension and inseparability of the effects of the economic actions in different areas on prosperity, the competence of the Community should be widened to cover more areas, particularly to all aspects of trade in goods and services which directly affect the life standards of the European nations. It is obvious that

the notion of Single Market, which has external dimensions as well as the internal ones, itself implies clearly that the foreign economic relations should be handled by a single authority.

On the other hand, in the ongoing globalisation process, which forces all economic operators to take a great number of changing and developing conditions into consideration day by day, Union should give priority to the development of the existing modalities with a view to enhancing the more satisfaction of the real needs of the Member States in a more balanced way. Each sector having relatively different importance for every Member State should be neither sacrificed nor ignored in favour of others.

Strategic administration at the Community level and more active participation of Member States to pre-decision making procedures should be reviewed and strengthened. Measures should be previously prepared to manage any crises which may be faced by Member States in the future as a whole or partially. The internal structure should not be let to diversify and have defects to spoil the integrity of the policies in such a case.

Regarding another side of the external relations, the development policy, we are very pleased that this issue has been put into agenda of the Convention. Development cooperation and assistance is of vital importance to billions living in every corner of the globe and, therefore, should constitute one of the most significant dimensions in the Union's external relations. It should be handled with ultimate care and effectiveness, since it is not only a matter of humanity, but also an investment for future prosperity of the Europe.

Thank you.