

**STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER H.E. MR. MESUT YILMAZ
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE
(12-13 September 2002, Brussels)**

MR. PRESIDENT,

ALLOW ME TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS ON THE ISSUE OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES. AS WE DEBATE THIS QUESTION I THINK WE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY SEVERAL OBJECTIVE FACTORS.

FIRST OF ALL, IS THERE A NEED TO HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES?

THE SECOND QUESTION, CAN THESE PROCEDURES WORK IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF AN ENLARGED UNION?

AND THE THIRD QUESTION IS ABOUT THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROCEDURES. DO THESE PROCEDURES NEED TO BE SO COMPLEX EVEN THE EXPERTS WOULD FIND THEM DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW?

OUR FEELING IS THAT WE SHOULD STREAMLINE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO ENSURE AN EFFICIENT LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM. IN THIS CONTEXT, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD REPLACE THE CO-OPERATION PROCEDURE WITH CO-DECISION PROCEDURE. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN FURTHER EXPAND THE SCOPE OF CO-DECISION PROCEDURE TO THE AREAS WHICH ARE NOT COVERED AT THE MOMENT.

THIS MOVEMENT HOWEVER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING, THIS WILL ENSURE THE COHERENCE OF THE SYSTEM. THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE ALSO HAS SOME WEAKNESS. A DEADLINE MUST BE SET FOR THE FIRST READING TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS.

AS FAR AS THE BUDGETARY PROCEDURES ARE CONCERNED, THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE COMPULSORY AND NON-COMPULSORY EXPENDITURES APPEARS TO BE VERY VAGUE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ELIMINATE THIS DISTINCTION. WE ALSO FEEL THAT THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE COULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO BUDGETARY METHODS.

IN CONCLUSION, OUR PRIMARY TASK SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THE INSTITUTIONAL FUNCTIONING OF THE SYSTEM TO BE MORE SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE IN AN ENLARGED UNION.

THANK YOU.