

Contribution of Mr Adrian Severin (MP, Romania) on the Economic Governance and Budgetary Procedures (30-31 May 2003)

I.

1. The Commission should have the right to make proposals to the Council concerning the Broad Guidelines for Economic Policies (BGEF) and not only recommendations.

2. When the Council decides on harmonization of legislation (Art. III 59 si III 60) and establishes measures on company taxation relate to administrative co-operation or combating tax fraud, the QMV procedure should be used.

The solution proposed by the Praesidium's draft allowing the QMV procedure only after an unanimous vote offers little chance for the QMV to truly be exercised as the case of the CFSP has shown.

The concern about fiscal policy is not about centralizing fiscality, but about restructuring the taxation policies recognizing that a single market requires at least a coherent and coordinated policy, if not a single one.

3. An institutional solution should be found in order to open the doors for a future European Minister for Economy and Finance who will chair the ECOFIN Council and will be one of the Vicepresidents of the European Commission.

II.

1. The European Parliament should be a legislative and budgetary body.

2. Depending on the matters to be subject of legislation (the level of expenditures, the basis of taxation and the resources of budgetary incomes), one can establish special procedures giving different weights either to the European Parliament or to the Council.

3. The QMV procedure should be employed as a general rule, not undermined by too many exceptions. The QMV should be at least used when a decision on the resources of budgetary income comes up, when it

is about tax issues directly linked to the functioning of the internal market and in the field of the environment protection.

III. A horizontal clause should be included in the Constitution in order to put on equal footing the social, economic and environmental goals in all the Union's activities.