

Statement by Mr Henrik Hololei  
Alternate Member of the Convention  
Government of Estonia  
on the first part  
of the draft Constitutional Treaty

*5 June 2003, Brussels*

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Presidium for a good work on the articles and the protocols that we are discussing here today. I am generally pleased with the content, I would like to make three short remarks.

First, article 3 on the aims of the Union. The article generally reflects the debates that have taken place in the working groups and at the plenary. I agree that is rather difficult to find a compromise between the different preferences of the participants in the debate on the one hand and the conciseness and brevity suitable for a constitutional text on the other hand. Nevertheless I would like to propose that we would include “high degree of competitiveness” among the economic aims enlisted at the paragraph 3 of the article 3, as already suggested by Mr Brok and others.

Second, on article 40. There are many members of the Convention who have suggested (Roche, ..., ) that enhanced cooperation in the area of defence should not be allowed. I would like express my full support to this point of view. The Union can only be as strong as are all the Member States together. What kind of signal would it send to the wider world if some member states of the Union would embark on a military mission in the name of the Union without the support of many others? I think showing our divisions will make Europe weaker rather than stronger.

Third, article 46. The general trend of this Convention has been to involve the organised civil society as much as possible. The Convention method itself has been a good step in this direction. However, I would like to make the wording of the article 46 even clearer regarding the involvement of the civil society. I have submitted my proposals for rephrasing in a written form and I won't repeat it here in detail. The basic idea is to make it unequivocal that the dialogue taking place with the civil society would be more structured and that it would take place at all levels of the decision-making process.

Preamble. What rubbish!

As regards the criticism on the government representatives, I must say that the Convention may produce a text that is as beautiful as Sheakespeare's in style or contains as much faith as St. Augustine's Confessions, it will nevertheless have to be endorsed by the national governments at the intergovernmental conference, thereafter by the national

parliaments and more generally, by the people of our countries. Especially please note that the populations of each and every member state will have to be pleased with the outcome, not the mythical “people of Europe”. Thus in my opinion it is inevitable that we only maintain our ambitions but a healthy dose of realism as well.