



MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS

DIRECÇÃO-GERAL
DOS
ASSUNTOS COMUNITÁRIOS

EUROPEAN CONVENTION / PLENARY SESSION

BRUSSELS, 13TH JUNE

Intervention by the Representative of the Portuguese Government
Ernâni Rodrigues Lopes

MR. PRESIDENT,

- I AM PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUCCESSES OF THIS CONVENTION
- WE HAVE MET OUR CHALLENGES AND FULFILLED THE LAEKEN MANDATE
- ALONG THIS PROCESS WE DEFENDED OUR PROPOSALS BUT WE MADE ALSO SOME CONCESSIONS. WE HAVE DONE SO BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT EUROPE CAN ONLY BE BUILT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL COMPROMISE
- WE CONSIDER THE OUTCOME OF THIS CONVENTION TO BE A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR THE IGC
- NOTWITHSTANDING, WE CANNOT AGREE WITH SOME PARTS OF THE TEXT, NOTABLY THOSE ARTICLES CONCERNING THE INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
- IN FACT, LEGAL EQUALITY AMONG MEMBER STATES IS NOT PROPERLY ENSURED, THEREFORE SERIOUSLY ENDANGERING THE UNION'S FUTURE
- I REFER IN PARTICULAR TO THE PROPOSAL OF ELECTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR AN ENLARGED MANDATE
- I DO HOPE THE IGC CAN IMPROVE THIS TEXT, BY MENDING THE SERIOUS OMISSIONS IT STILL CONTAINS IN ORDER TO ENSURE A BALANCED FINAL AGREEMENT AMONG MEMBER STATES.