**THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION**  
Brussels, 18 July 2003

**THE SECRETARIAT**

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**COVER NOTE**

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**Subject:** Report from the Presidency of the Convention to the President of the European Council

Members of the Convention will find attached the report of the Presidency of the Convention to the President of the European Council.

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REPORT
FROM THE CONVENTION PRESIDENCY
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1. In response to the mandate from the European Council meeting in Laeken on 14 and 15 December 2001, the Convention on the Future of Europe has completed its task, and submits to the President of the European Council the outcome of its work: a draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

2. As envisaged in the Laeken Declaration, the President of the Convention gave progress reports to the European Council at its meetings in June 2002 (Seville), October 2002 (Brussels), December 2002 (Copenhagen), and April 2003 (Athens). He presented Parts I and II of the draft Treaty to the European Council in Thessaloniki on 20 June 2003: they have not been subsequently changed. Parts III and IV, interim texts of which were available at Thessaloniki, have since been finalised, and are now added.

3. This concludes seventeen months of work by the Convention whose members, together with their alternates, are listed in Annex I. They met in plenary session on 26 occasions (52 days), hearing over 1800 interventions. The Convention also established eleven Working Groups and three Discussion Circles, each with its own specific mandate, which met to address particular issues (listed at Annex II) and make recommendations to the Convention as a whole. Convention members also provided 386 written contributions to the Convention as a whole, and 773 to Working Groups and Discussion circles.

4. The Praesidium, whose members are listed in Annex I, met on 50 occasions, and submitted 52 papers to the Convention. Members of the Praesidium chaired the Working Groups and Discussion Circles listed at Annex II, and presented their reports to the Convention.
5. The Convention operated in a fully transparent manner: its meetings were open to the public, and all its official documents were available on its website, which received an average of 47,000 visitors per month, rising to 100,000 in June 2003. In addition it took a number of initiatives to ensure wider participation in its work. The Forum established in accordance with the Laeken declaration received 1264 contributions from NGOs, the business community, academia and others. Meetings were organised with a wide range of groups with an interest in the Convention. These included churches and religious organisations, Think tanks, representatives of local and regional organisations, and NGOs. In addition a special plenary session devoted to civil society took place in June 2002. A Youth Convention was organised in July 2002: its elected Chairman became an additional observer of the Convention's continuing work.

6. A key element in the Convention's success was the full role played by its members from candidate countries. In accordance with the Laeken declaration, they participated fully in the Convention's proceedings; the Convention decided to go further, and one of their representatives, elected by them, was invited to participate in all Praesidium discussions. Interpretation arrangements were also made to enable members from candidate countries to address the Convention in their own languages. The decision by the European Council on enlargement in December 2002, and the subsequent ratification process in the candidate countries, underlines the significance of these practical decisions taken early on in the Convention's life.

7. The task given to the Convention was founded on the four issues addressed in the "Nice declaration on the future of the Union", and then developed further in the mandate set out by the European Council in Laeken. During its initial meetings, the Convention addressed issues such as the delimitation of competences and the simplification of the Union's instruments and procedures. These discussions in plenary, together with the outcome of the first wave of working groups, enabled the Convention to define, in October 2002, the most appropriate future treaty structure which would respond in particular to the requirements of clarity and simplification. The outcome of the Convention reflects this: a merge and
reorganisation of the existing treaties in the form of a draft Constitution, and hence a single legal personality for the European Union. This approach secured support from a large number of Convention members, and enabled the Convention subsequently to reach broad consensus on the consolidated and complete text of a draft Treaty, in four Parts, which it presents to the European Council.

8. The Convention agreed on a major enhancement of the democratic nature of the Union. The Constitution incorporates it, calling for a significant expansion of the role of the European Parliament, with a doubling of the scope of legislation taken by co-decision, which becomes the normal legislative process of the Union, and a substantial simplification of corresponding procedures. In addition, new mechanisms to ensure improved information flow to national Parliaments, and their closer involvement in the Union's work, in particular on legislation, have been devised. The Union's competences have been clarified, categorised and stabilised, and its range of legal instruments reduced, in the interests of better public understanding, more effective action, and a clear distinction between the roles of the Union and of the Member States.

9. To enable the Union's central Institutions to adapt to the new Enlargement dimension, means of strengthening all three, while retaining the balance between them, have been incorporated in the Constitution. The Convention is convinced that these reforms will substantially improve the Union's effectiveness.

10. The Constitution incorporates, as its Part II, the Charter of Fundamental Rights proclaimed at the Nice European Council. The Convention noted that the "Explanations" drawn up at the instigation of the Praesidium of the Charter Convention, and updated under the authority of this Convention's Praesidium, are one important tool for the interpretation of the Charter.

11. The Convention has prepared the texts of new Protocols on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union and on the Application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality, as well as on the Eurogroup and Euratom. It has not attempted to review existing Protocols to the current Treaties, nor therefore to prepare the texts of the Protocols
mentioned in Articles IV-1 and IV-2: it will fall to the Intergovernmental Conference to undertake the task. Similarly, it will be for the Intergovernmental Conference to conclude the lists, foreseen in Articles III-213 and III-214, of those Member States participating in closer co-operation and on mutual defence; and to ensure a response to the call, set out in the relevant Convention Declaration, for the timely establishment of a European External Action Service.

12. The attention of the European Council is drawn to two further specific issues which it may wish to follow up. Firstly, a large number of members of the Convention argued for a more ambitious approach to the issue of transparency, including specifically the automatic presumption of public right of access to all documents. The proposed Constitution imposes an obligation on the institutions to adopt rules on transparency. The level of ambition of these rules, and so the extent to which demands for access can be met, therefore needs to be addressed within the framework of subsequent legislation.

13. Secondly, although some members wished to re-examine, and perhaps update, the provisions of the Euratom treaty, the Convention did not believe it had either the mandate or the time and competence to do so. The future of Euratom therefore remains an issue which the European Council may wish at some stage to address.

14. Certain members of the Convention, though not seeking to block consensus, were unable to give their support to the draft Constitution. One group of 4 members considered that the Convention had not responded appropriately to the section of the Laeken mandate on increasing democratic legitimacy; their minority alternative report proposing a "Europe of democracies" is attached at Annex III.

15. Some other members of the Convention, whilst joining the broad consensus on the text of the draft Constitution, would have preferred an approach going rather further, particularly as regards the extension of Qualified Majority Voting and the procedures for future Amendment of the Constitution.
16. It is thanks to the high degree of commitment and engagement of all its members that the Convention has been able successfully to complete its work, and to present what the Thessaloniki European Council considered to be a "good basis" for the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference. It hopes that the momentum which has been generated, and the balance of the synthesis on which it found consensus after long and careful examination, will be maintained by the Intergovernmental Conference.

17. Having fulfilled the mandate given to it by the Laeken European Council, the Convention has ended. In presenting the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, and this report, its Presidency discharges its mission, and steps down.

18. The archives of the Convention will be deposited at the Secretariat of the Council.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing
President of the Convention

Giuliano Amato
Vice-President

Jean-Luc Dehaene
Vice-President

John Kerr
Secretary-General
ANNEX I

THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION

LIST OF MEMBERS

PRESIDENCY

Mr Valéry GISCARD d’ESTAING  Chairman
Mr Giuliano AMATO  Vice-Chairman
Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE  Vice-Chairman

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRAESIDIUM

Mr Michel BARNIER  Representative of the European Commission
Mr John BRUTON  Representative of the National Parliaments
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN  Representative of the Danish Presidency
Mr Alfonso DASTIS  Representative of the Spanish Presidency
(from March 2003)
Mr Klaus HÄNSCH  Representative of the European Parliament
Mr Giorgos KATIFORIS  Representative of the Greek Presidency
(直至2003年2月)
Mr Iñigo MÉNDEZ DE VIGO  Representative of the European Parliament
Ms Ana PALACIO  Representative of the Spanish Presidency
(直至2003年3月)
Mr Giorgos PAPANDREOU  Representative of the Greek Presidency
(from 2003年2月)
Ms Gisela STUART  Representative of the National Parliaments
Mr Antonio VITORINO  Representative of the European Commission
Mr Alojz PETERLE  Invitee

CONVENTION MEMBERS

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr Jens-Peter BONDE (DK)
Mr Elmar BROK (D)
Mr Andrew Nicholas DUFF (UK)
Mr Olivier DUHAMEL (F)
Mr Klaus HÄNSCH (D)
Ms Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN (D)
Mr Timothy KIRKHOPE (UK)
Mr Alain LAMASSOURE (F)
Ms Linda McAVAN (UK)
Ms Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN (NL)
Mr Luís MARINHO (P)
Mr Íñigo MÉNDEZ DE VIGO Y MONTOJO (ES)
Ms Cristiana MUSCARDINI (IT)
Mr Antonio TAJANI (IT)
Ms Anne VAN LANCKER (B)
Mr Johannes VOGGENHUBER (ÖS)

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION

Mr Michel BARNIER
Mr António VITORINO

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES

COUNTRY

BELGIË/BELGIQUE

Government
Mr Louis MICHEL

National Parliament
Mr Karel DE GUCHT
Mr Elio DI RUPO

DANMARK

Government
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

National Parlement
Mr Peter SKAARUP
Mr Henrik DAM KRISTENSEN

DEUTSCHLAND

Government
Mr Joschka FISCHER

National Parliament
Mr Jürgen MEYER
Mr Erwin TEUFEL

replaced Mr Peter GLOTZ in November 2002
ELLAS

Government
Mr Giorgos PAPANDREOU
replaced
Mr Giorgos KATIFORIS in
February 2003

National Parliament
Mr Paraskevas AVGERINOS
Ms Marietta GIANNAKOU

ESPÁÑA

Government
Mr Alfonso DASTIS
replaced Mr Carlos BASTARRECHE as alternate
member in September 2002,
then Ms A. Palacio as member
in March 2003

National Parliament
Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
Mr Gabriel CISNEROS LABORDA

FRANCE

Government
Mr Dominique de VILLEPIN
replaced Mr Pierre MOSCOVICI in
November 2002

National Parliament
Mr Pierre LEQUILLER
replaced Mr Alain BARRAU in
July 2002
Mr Hubert HAENEL

IRELAND

Government
Mr Dick ROCHE
replaced
Mr Ray MacSHARRY in
July 2002

National Parliament
Mr John BRUTON
Mr Proinsias DE ROSSA

ITALIA

Government
Mr Gianfranco FINI

National Parliament
Mr Marco FOLLINI
Mr Lamberto DINI

LUXEMBOURG

Government
Mr Jacques SANTER

National Parliament
Mr Paul HELMINGER
Mr Ben FAYOT
### NEDERLAND

**Government**
Mr Gijs de VRIES  
*replaced Mr Hans van MIERLO in October 2002*

**National Parliament**
Mr René van der LINDEN  
Mr Frans TIMMERMANS

### ÖSTERREICH

**Government**
Mr Hannes FARNLEITNER

**National Parliament**
Mr Caspar EINEM  
Mr Reinhard Eugen BÓSCH

### PORTUGAL

**Government**
Mr Ernâni LOPES  
*replaced Mr João de VALLERA in May 2002*

**National Parliament**
Mr Alberto COSTA  
Ms Eduarda AZEVEDO

### SUOMI/FINLAND

**Government**
Ms Teija TIILIKAINEN

**National Parliament**
Mr Kimmo KILJUNEN  
Mr Jari VILÉN  
*replaced Mr Matti VANHANEN in May 2003*

### SVERIGE

**Government**
Ms Lena HJELM-WALLÉN

**National Parliament**
Mr Sören LEKBERG  
Mr Göran LENNMARKER

### UNITED KINGDOM

**Government**
Mr Peter HAIN

**National Parliament**
Ms Gisela STUART  
Mr David HEATHCOAT-AMORY
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

COUNTRY

Κυπρος/CYPRUS

**Government**
Mr Michael ATTALIDES

**National Parliament**
Ms Eleni MAVROU
Mr Panayiotis DEMETRIOU

MALTA

**Government**
Mr Peter SERRACINO-INGLOTT

**National Parliament**
Mr Michael FRENDO
Mr Alfred SANT

MAGYARORSZÀG/HUNGARY

**Government**
Mr Péter BALÁZS
*replaced Mr János MARTONYI in June 2002*

**National Parliament**
Mr József SZÁJER
Mr Pál VASTAGH

POLSKA/POLAND

**Government**
Ms Danuta HÜBNER

**National Parliament**
Mr Jozef OLEKSY
Mr Edmund WITTBRODT

ROMÂNIA/ROMANIA

**Government**
Ms Hildegard Carola PUWAK
*replaced Mr Liviu MAIOR in February 2003*

**National Parliament**
Mr Alexandru ATHANASIU
Mr Puiu HASOTTI

SLOVENSKO/SLOVAKIA

**Government**
Mr Ivan KORČOK
*replaced Mr Ján FIGEL in November 2002*

**National Parliament**
Mr Ján FIGEL
*replaced Mr Pavol HAMZIK in October 2002*
Ms Irena BELOHORSKÁ
LATVIJA/LATVIA

Government
Ms Sandra KALNIETE
*replaced Mr Roberts ZILE in January 2003*

National Parliament
Mr Rihards PIKS
Ms Liene LIEPINA
*replaced Mr Edvins INKENS in January 2003*

EESTI/ESTONIA

Government
Mr Lennart MERI

National Parliament
Mr Tunne KELAM
Mr Rein LANG
*replaced Mr Peeter REITZBERG in April 2003*

LIETUVA/LITHUANIA

Government
Mr Rytis MARTIKONIS

National Parliament
Mr Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS
Mr Algirdas GRICIUS
*in December 2002 replaced Mr Alvydas MEDALINSKAS,*
who in turn replaced Ms Dalia KUTRAITE-GIEDRAITIENE as alternate member

България/BULGARIA

Government
Ms Meglena KUNEVA

National Parliament
Mr Daniel VALCHEV
Mr Nikolai MLADENOV

ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA/CZECH REPUBLIC

Government
Mr Jan KOHOUT
*replaced Mr Jan KAVAN in September 2002*

National Parliament
Mr Jan ZAHRADIL
Mr Josef ZIELENIEC
SLOVENIJA/SLOVENIA

Government
Mr Dimitrij RUPEL
*replaced* Mr Matjaz NAHTIGAL *in January 2003*

National Parliament
Mr Jelko KACIN
*replaced* Mr Slavko GABER *in January 2003*
Mr Alojz PETERLE

TÜRQİYE/TURKEY

Government
Mr Abdullah GÜL
*in March 2003 replaced* Mr Yasar YAKIS, who had replaced Mr Mesut YILMAZ *in December 2002*

National Parliament
Mr Zekeriya AKCAM
*replaced* Mr Ali TEKIN *in December 2002*
Mr Kemal DERVIŞ
*replaced* Ms Ayfer YILMAZ *in December 2002*

ALTERNATES

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr William ABITBOL (F)
Ms ALMEIDA GARRETT (P)
Mr John CUSHNAHAN (IRL)
Ms Lone DYBKJAER (DK)
Ms Pervenche BERÈS (F)
Ms Maria BERGER (ÖS)
Mr Carlos CARNERO GONZÁLEZ (ES)
Mr Neil MacCORMICK (UK)
Ms Piia-Noora KAUPPI (FI)
Ms Elena PACIOTTI (IT)
Mr Luís QUEIRÓ (P)
Mr Reinhard RACK (ÖS)
Mr Esko SEPPÄNEN (FI)
The Earl of STOCKTON (UK)
Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT (DK)
Mr Joachim WUERMELING (D)
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION

Mr David O'SULLIVAN

Mr Paolo PONZANO

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES

COUNTRY

BELGIÉ/BELGIQUE

Government
Mr Pierre CHEVALIER

National Parliament
Mr Danny PIETERS
Ms Marie NAGY

DANMARK

Government
Mr Poul SCHLÜTER

National Parliament
Mr Per DALGAARD
Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN

DEUTSCHLAND

Government
Mr Hans Martin BURY
_replaced Mr Gunter PLEUGER in November 2002_

Mr Peter ALTMAIER
Mr Wolfgang GERHARDS
_replaced Mr Wolfgang SENFF in March 2003_

ELLAS

Government
Mr Giorgos KATIFORIS
_replaced Mr Panayiotis IOAKIMIDIS in February 2003_

National Parliament
Mr Nikolaos CONSTANTOPOULOS
Mr Evripidis STILINIADIS

ESPAÑA

Government
Ms Ana PALACIO
_replaced Mr Alfonso Dastis in March 2003_

National Parliament
Mr Diego LÓPEZ GARRIDO
Mr Alejandro MUÑOZ LONSO
FRANCE

Government
Ms Pascale ANDREANI
replaced Mr Pierre VIMONT in August 2002

National Parliament
Mr Jacques FLOCH
replaced Ms Anne-Marie IDRAC in July 2002
Mr Robert BADINTER

IRELAND

Government
Mr Bobby McDONAGH
Mr Pat CAREY, replaced Mr Martin CULLEN in July 2002
Mr John GORMLEY

National Parliament
Mr Pat CAREY, replaced Mr Martin
CULLEN in July 2002
Mr John GORMLEY

ITALIA

Government
Mr Francesco E. SPERONI
Mr Valdo SPINI
Mr Filadelfio Guido BASILE

National Parliament
Mr Valdo SPINI
Mr Filadelfio Guido BASILE

LUXEMBOURG

Government
Mr Nicolas SCHMIT

National Parliament
Mr Gaston GIBERYEN
Ms Renée WAGENER

LUXEMBOURG

Government
Mr Nicolas SCHMIT

National Parliament
Mr Gaston GIBERYEN
Ms Renée WAGENER

NEDERLAND

Government
Mr Thom de BRUIJN
Mr Wim van EEKELEN
Mr Jan Jacob van DIJK
replaced Mr Hans van BAALEN in October 2002

National Parliament
Mr Wim van EEKELEN
Mr Jan Jacob van DIJK
replaced Mr Hans van BAALEN in October 2002

ÖSTERREICH

Government
Mr Gerhard TUSEK

National Parliament
Ms Evelyn LICHTENBERGER
Mr Eduard MAINONI
replaced Mr Gerhard KURZMANN in March 2003
PORTUGAL

Government
Mr Manuel LOBO ANTUNES

National Parliament
Mr Guilherme d'OLIVEIRA MARTINS
replaced Mr Osvaldo de CASTRO in June 2002
Mr António NAZARÉ PEREIRA

SUOMI/FINLAND

Government
Mr Antti PELTOMÄKI

National Parliament
Mr Hannu TAKKULA
replaced Ms Riitta KORHONEN in May 2003
Mr Esko HELLE

SVERIGE

Government
Mr Sven-Olof PETERSSON
replaced Ms Lena HALLENGREN in December 2002

National Parliament
Mr Kenneth KVIST
Mr Ingvar SVENSSON

UNITED KINGDOM

Government
Baroness SCOTLAND OF ASTHAL

National Parliament
Lord TOMLINSON
Lord MACLENNAN OF ROGART

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

COUNTRY
Këπροζ/CYPRUS

Government
Mr Theophilos V. THEOPHILOU

National Parliament
Mr Marios MATSAKIS
Ms Androula VASSILIOU

MALTA

Government
Mr John INGUANEZ

National Parliament
Ms Dolores CRISTINA
Mr George VELLA
MAGYARORSZÁG/HUNGARY

Government
Mr Péter GOTTFRIED

National Parliament
Mr András KELEMEN
Mr István SZENT-IVÁNYI

POLSKA/POLAND

Government
Mr Janusz TRZCIŃSKI

National Parliament
Ms Marta FOGLER
Ms Genowefa GRABOWSKA

ROMÂNIA/ROMANIA

Government
Mr Constantin ENE
replaced Mr Ion JINGA in December 2002

National Parliament
Mr Péter ECKSTEIN-KOVACS
Mr Adrian SEVERIN

SLOVENSko/SLOVAKIA

Government
Mr Juraj MIGAŠ

National Parliament
Ms Zuzana MARTINAKOVA
replaced Mr Frantisek SEBEJ in November 2002
Mr Boris ZALA
replaced Ms Olga KELTOSOVA in November 2002

LATVIJA/LATVIA

Government
Mr Roberts ZILE
replaced Mr Guntars KRASTS in January 2003

National Parliament
Mr Guntars KRASTS
replaced Mr Maris SPRINDZUKS in January 2003
Mr Arturs Krisjanis KARINS
replaced Ms Inese BIRZNIECE in January 2003
EESTI/ESTONIA

Government
Mr Henrik HOLOLEI

National Parliament
Ms Liina TÕNISSON
replaced Ms Liia HÄNNI in April 2003
Mr Urmas REINSALU
replaced Mr Õlo TÄRNO in April 2003

LIETUVA/LITHUANIA

Government
Mr Oskaras JUSYS

National Parliament
Mr Gintautas ŠIVICKAS
in February 2003 replaced Mr Gediminas DALINKEVICIUS, who had replaced Mr Rolandas PAVILIONIS in December 2002
Mr Eugenijus MALDEIKIS
replaced Mr Alvysas MEDALINSKAS in February 2003

България/BULGARIA

Government
Ms Neli KUTSKOVA

National Parliament
Mr Alexander ARABADJIEV
Mr Nesrin UZUN

ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA/CZECH REPUBLIC

Government
Ms Lenka Anna ROVNA
replaced Mr Jan KOHOUT in September 2002

National Parliament
Mr Petr NEČAS
Mr František KROUPA

SLOVENIJA/SLOVENIA

Government
Mr Janez LENARČIČ

National Parliament
Mr Franc HORVAT
replaced Ms Danica SIMŠIĆ in January 2003
Mr Mihael BREJC
TÜRQİYE/TURKEY

Government
Mr Oğuz DEMIRALP
replaced Mr Nihat AKYOL in August 2002

National Parliament
Mr Ibrahim ÖZAL
replaced Mr Kürsat ESER in December 2002
Mr Necdet BUDAK
replaced Mr A. Emre KOCAOĞLOU in December 2002

OBSERVERS

Mr Roger BRIESCH Economic and Social Committee
Mr Josef CHABERT Committee of the Regions
Mr João CRAVINHO European Social Partners
Mr Manfred DAMMEYER Committee of the Regions
Mr Patrick DEWAEL Committee of the Regions
Mr Nikiforos DIAMANDOUROS European Ombudsman
(replaced Mr Jacob SÖDERMAN in March 2003)
Ms Claude DU GRANRUT Committee of the Regions
Mr Göke Daniel FRERICHS Economic and Social Committee
Mr Emilio GABAGLIO European Social Partners
Mr Georges JACOBS European Social Partners
Mr Claudio MARTINI Committee of the Regions
Ms Anne-Maria Sigmund Economic and Social Committee
Mr Ramón Luis VALCÁRCEL SISO Committee of the Regions
(replaced Mr Eduardo ZAPLANA in February 2003;
Ms Eva-Riitta SIITONEN had acted as alternate since
October 2002)

SECRETARIAT

Sir John KERR Secretary-General
Ms Annalisa GIANNELLA Deputy Secretary-General

Ms Marta ARPIO SANTACRUZ Ms Agnieszka BARTOL
Mr Hervé BRIBOSIA Ms Nicole BUCHET
Ms Elisabeth GATEAU Mr Clemens LADENBURGER
Ms Maria José MARTÍNEZ IGLESIAS Mr Nikolaus MEYER LANDRUT
Mr Guy MILTON Mr Ricardo PASSOS
Ms Kristin de PEYRON Mr Alain PILETTE
Mr Alain PIOTROWSKI Mr Etienne de PONCINS
Ms Alessandra SCHIAVO Ms Walpurga SPECKBACHER
Ms Maryem van den HEUVEL
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<td>M. Mendez de Vigo</td>
<td>CONV 730/03 of 8 May 2003</td>
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Laeken’s Lost Missions

As members of the Convention, we cannot endorse the draft European Constitution. It does not meet the requirements of the Laeken Declaration of December 2001.

Laeken says "the Union must be brought closer to its citizens".

The transfer of more decision making from member states to the Union, concerning criminal justice matters and new areas of domestic policy, will make the Union more remote.

Laeken adds that "the division of competences be made more transparent".

But the new category of 'shared competences' gives no assurance about how power is to be shared, particularly as member states will be forbidden to legislate in these areas if the Union decides to act. The EU court in Luxembourg will decide on any doubt.

Laeken describes the Union as "behaving too bureaucratically".

The draft Constitution fails to address the 97,000 accumulated pages of the acquis communautaire, and proposes a new legal instrument, the 'Non Legislative Act', whereby the non-elected Commission can pass binding laws.

Laeken calls for the "European institutions to be less unwieldy and rigid".

But the Constitution gives more power to all the existing EU institutions and creates a Europe of Presidents, with more jobs for politicians and less influence for the people.

Laeken highlights the importance of national parliaments, and the Nice Treaty "stressed the need to examine their role in European integration".

National Parliaments lose influence relative to the Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council. Their proposed new role in 'ensuring' compliance with the subsidiarity principle is in reality no more than a request which the Commission can ignore. Not one competence will be returned to member states.

Laeken calls for "more transparency and efficiency" in the Union.
The Constitution concentrates more executive and budgetary power in the very EU institutions which have been the subject of repeated and continuing scandals over mismanagement, waste and fraud.

Laeken suggests the possibility of a constitution: "The question ultimately arises as to whether this simplification and reorganisation might not lead in the long run to the adoption of a constitutional text of the Union".

The suggestion that the existing intergovernmental Treaties be transformed into a new European Constitution was rapidly seized upon, but without any study of either the alternatives on offer or the long-term consequences of such an act.

Lastly, Laeken's overriding aim was a Democratic Europe.

The draft Constitution creates a new centralised European state, more powerful, more remote, with more politicians, more bureaucracy, and a wider gap between the rulers and the ruled.

The EURATOM treaty was brought into the Constitution in the last moment without any working group having the time to revise it.

**The draft EU constitution was never drafted through normal democratic methods**

- The applicant countries were treated as observers in the Praesidium and had no real say
- Only 3 political families were represented in the powerful Praesidium which drafted the tunnel vision text.
- The members were refused the right to have their amendments translated, distributed, discussed and voted upon
- The Convention had no Members for that half of the population, which rejected the Maastricht treaty in France or the Nice treaty in Ireland.
- Not one single Eurosceptic or Eurorealist person was allowed to observe or participate in the work in the Praesidium, nor any of its assisting secretariats.

Giscard did not allow democracy and normal voting in the Convention. The draft constitution runs counter to all democratic principles. We want a new draft from a much more representative convention, democratic in content and democratic in procedures.
We hereby submit the following 15 points to the consideration for our Prime ministers and the other following citizens.

1. EUROPE OF DEMOCRACIES. The European Union (EU) shall not have a constitution. Instead, Europe should be organised on an interparliamentary basis by means of a Treaty on European Cooperation. This will create a Europe of Democracies (ED) in place of the existing EU. If the EU should have a new name it should be Europe of Democracies.

2. A SLIMLINE TREATY. The present 97,000 pages of the acquis communautaire covering the EU and EEA must be radically simplified. Instead, focus shall be placed on cross-frontier issues where national parliaments cannot effectively act by themselves. Decisions on subsidiarity shall be resolved by the national parliaments.

3. OPEN TO ALL DEMOCRACIES. Membership of the ED shall be open to any democratic European state which is a signatory of, and respects fully, the European Convention on Human Rights.

4. SIMPLIFIED DECISION-MAKING. The present 30 different ways of making decisions in the EU shall be reduced to two: laws and recommendations. Where qualified majority voting applies, the proposal in question shall require 75 % of the votes to be cast in favour, unless otherwise stated.

5. A VETO ON VITAL ISSUES. Laws shall be valid only if they have been passed by national parliaments. A national parliament shall have a veto on an issue it deems important.

6. THE COMMON CORE ISSUES. Laws shall deal with the rules for the Common Market and certain common minimum standards to protect employees, consumers, health, safety and the environment. In other areas the ED shall have the power to issue recommendations for Member States, which are always free to adopt higher standards.

7. FLEXIBLE COOPERATION. The ED may unanimously approve flexible cooperation for those nations that want to take part in closer cooperation. The ED shall also recognise and support other pan-European organisations, such as the Council of Europe.

8. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY. The decision-making process and relevant documents shall be open and accessible, unless a reasonable cause for exception is confirmed by qualified majority.

9. STRAIGHTFORWARD COUNCIL VOTING. A simplified voting system shall operate in the Council, which may comprise each Member State possessing one vote in the ED Council. A decision by qualified majority shall require the support of countries with more than half the total ED population.
10. NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS ELECT THE COMMISSION. Every national parliament should elect its own member of the Commission. The Commissioner shall attend the European Scrutiny Committees of the national parliament concerned. National parliaments shall have the power to dismiss their Commissioner. The President of the Commission shall be elected by the national parliaments. National parliaments shall decide on the annual legislative programme and the Commission shall correspondingly act as a secretariat for the Council and the national parliaments.

11. NO LEGISLATION BY THE COURT. Legal activism by the European Court in Luxembourg shall be curbed, and the Court shall respect the European Convention on Human Rights.

12. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS. The Member States and the ED may enter into partnership agreements of mutual interest with states or groups of states. The ED shall respect the parliamentary democracy of its partners and may assist poorer ones with a financial aid, while fostering free trade agreements.

13. BETTER SCRUTINY. The European Ombudsman, the Court of Auditors and the Budget Control Committees of the European and national parliaments shall have access to all documents and all financial accounts.

14. EQUALITY OF LANGUAGES. When legislating, all official ED languages shall be treated equally.

15. UNITED NATIONS. The ED shall not have its own army. Peacekeeping and peacemaking should be mandated by the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Member States shall decide themselves whether they opt for a common defence through NATO, independent defence, or follow a neutrality policy.

Contribution by Convention members:

Abitbol, William - (Alternate Member) European Parliament
Bonde, Jens-Peter - (Member) European Parliament
Dalgaard, Per - (Alternate Member) Denmark - Parliament
Gormley, John - (Alternate Member) Ireland - Parliament
Heathcoat-Amory, David - (Member) - UK - Parliament
Seppanen, Esko - (Alternate Member) European Parliament
Skaarup, Peter - (Member) Denmark - Parliament
Zahradil, Jan - (Member) Czech Republic - Parliament