

EUROPEAN CONVENTION

KEY POINTS

The following proposals are intended to help the Convention and the IGC to follow the logic of Parts I and II of the Constitution, which were submitted to the European Council at Thessaloniki, in the revision of Parts III and IV, which were not.

We seek to extend the scope of qualified majority voting in the Council both in foreign and security policy and in legislative areas affecting certain aspects of fiscal, social and non-discrimination policies. There are other points on which clarification is needed.

Our purpose is to facilitate decision making in the enlarged Union, to strengthen the rule of law and to bring the Constitution to life. By adopting these proposals the IGC would be responding to the mainstream of the Convention and to the public need for a more capable and democratic European Union.

The **key points** are as follows:

1. No regression from existing Convention consensus in Parts I and II, and no regression from existing treaties in Part III, which must itself be rendered wholly consistent with Parts I and II.
2. QMV in common foreign and security policy when initiatives of the Foreign Minister are supported by the Commission, according to Article III-189.2. (Amend Article III-196.2(b)).
3. QMV (ordinary legislative procedure) to pass laws or framework laws for harmonising measures in the field of indirect or company taxation relating to administrative cooperation, tax fraud and tax evasion, provided that they are necessary for the functioning of the internal market and to avoid distortion of competition. (Amend Article III-59.2 and Article III-60).
4. QMV (ordinary legislative procedure) for Article III-5 (non-discrimination).
5. QMV (ordinary legislative procedure) for social policy in Article III-99(d) (protection of dismissed workers). (Amend Article III-99.3)

Other points to raise in the debate are as follows:

6. Possible extension of the role of the European Court of Justice to cover the essential aspects of CFSP, in particular in so far as the work of EU agencies are concerned. Article III-278 may have to be amended to delimit the role of the Court in CFSP to certain provisions of Article III-266 (legality of acts solely in cases brought by a Member State or by individuals with direct and individual concern), Article III-268 (procedures), and Article 272 (damages).
7. Clarification of Article 99(g) concerning access to the labour market for third country nationals (see also Article 163.2(b)).
8. Clarification of role of European Parliament in international commercial agreements (Article III-222).

9. Clarification of the relationship between the EU diplomatic service and the *famille RELEX* of the Commission (Article III-192.3 and Declaration).

As far as **Part IV** is concerned:

10. Modify the procedures for the future revision of the Constitution in those cases where competences are not shifted and the Charter is not affected. Add proviso that the European Parliament must give its consent to a decision of the European Council not to call a Convention. (Amend Article IV-6)

AND
08.00 - 04/07/03

Declaration on the Role of national parliaments in the European Debate

Raise national European awareness

The European Commission shall send its Annual Legislative and Work programme (as well as the 3-month rolling programme) to the Member States' national parliaments

The legislative and work programme will be subject of a **(coinciding) debate in all the national parliaments**

The debate in the national parliaments will be held in the same week as the debate about the Commission's programme in the European Parliament

Scheduling a specific week (after the presentation of the programme by the Commission) to have simultaneously debates will create a common window which will:

- enable the parliaments to **properly and preliminary check the compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality.**
- further **strengthen the European role of the national parliaments**
- encourage the parliaments to put **European issues on the national political agenda and make their European views known**
- **raise national awareness** of the activities of the European Union
- create more **support for European development by the citizens** and will contribute to the **European Union of the citizens.**
- **involve –also on the national level- civil society** and the organisations representing civil society (social partners, the business world, non-governmental organisations, academia etc).

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