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Mr.
Claus Larsen-Jensen
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DK-1240 Koebenhavn K
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July 9th, 2001

Dear Mr. Larsen-Jensen,

it is my pleasure to submit to you a resolution on the future of the European Union which the Committee for European Affairs has passed in its last meeting on July 4th, 2001.

In accordance with the contribution from the XXIV. COSAC in Stockholm on May 22th, 2001 the Committee strongly supports that a conference based on the Convention for drafting the Charter of Fundamental Rights should be convened in order to prepare the IGC 2004. This body should be composed of representatives from the National Parliaments, the European Parliament, the Member States governments and the European Commision as well as of delegates from the candidate countries. The convention shall aim at developping and drafting proposals for EU reform for which the European Council in Nice already indicated some priorities.

Wishing you a very pleasant summer, I am looking forward to seeing you in Brussels at the XXV. COSAC.

With my best regards

(Dr. Friedbert Pflüger, MdB)

Agenda item no. 5:

Resolution submitted by the Committee pursuant to Rule 93 a, para. 3, sentence 2 in conjunction with Rule 93 a, para. 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag

Draft resolution for the vote:

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union of the German Bundestag welcomes the Declaration on the Future of the Union adopted by the Heads of State and Government at Nice on 7 and 8 December. It was agreed at Nice that a new Conference of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States will be convened in 2004. However, the process of drafting the Treaty of Nice also demonstrated clearly that the IGC, as an instrument to reform the European treaties, has reached its limits. The European Council, at its meeting in Laeken/Brussels on 14 and 15 December 2001, will agree on appropriate initiatives for the continuation of the European Union's reform process.

In order to improve democratic legitimacy and transparency in the further development of the European treaties, the national parliaments and the European Parliaments must contribute substantively to this process in future. A good example of how the national parliaments and the European Parliament can participate in the development of European treaty law already exists. The European Union's Heads of State and Government entrusted the task of drafting the Charter of Fundamental Rights to a Convention made up of representatives of the national parliaments, the European Parliament, the Commission, and the Heads of State and Government. The successful Convention model should be adopted for the preparation of the 2004 Inter-Governmental Conference.

As part of the preparations for the 2004 IGC, a body based on this Convention should therefore be entrusted with the task of drafting proposals for the preparatory work on a European constitution. This includes, in particular, proposals on the future role of the European institutions and their inter-relationship, a more precise delimitation of powers between the European Union and the Member States, the simplification of the treaties, the future role of the national parliaments, and the integration of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into the treaties.

Representatives of the states involved in accession negotiations must also be involved in an appropriate manner in this process. They should be represented by delegates, not observers, in the new Convention. The steering or management of the Convention must be undertaken solely by its steering body (Bureau, or Presidium) drawn from among its members. The Convention should aim to produce a single draft text. On controversial issues, alternative options can be developed in the form of majority or minority votes in exceptional cases.

The participation of all the key civil society actors in the forthcoming reform process is essential. These civil society actors should be able to play a full and active part in the drafting of a European constitution. The new Convention would therefore also acquire a more significant role as a political catalyst than its predecessor.

Moreover, representatives of the Convention should also be involved in the Inter-Governmental Conference, so that the European treaties can be developed further in a consensus-oriented process.

The Committee on the Affairs of the European Union welcomes the fact that COSAC, at its meeting on 21 and 22 May 2001, called unanimously for a Convention to be set up to draft proposals on the future of the European Union.

The German Bundestag expects to be kept regularly informed about the work of the Convention. It will follow the Convention's work through its debates.