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The European Convention

## **Headings for the articles in the Constitutional Treaty**

The Convention has been very successful when it comes to simplifying the Treaties. This is in line with the demands from the Nice and Laeken Declarations. One part of the simplification is that the articles in Part I, II and IV of the Constitutional Treaty have headings. The headlines make it easier to get an overview of the text and to find the articles one is looking for.

When the Presidium presented the first articles in Part III on an area with freedom, security and justice (CONV 614/03) in March 2003 these articles had headings, which doubtless made it easier to follow the text. However, the intention is obviously to delete these headings.

We think that the headings in the text on an area with freedom, security and justice should remain in the final version of the Constitution, and that the other articles in Part III also should be given headings.

Thus, we hereby propose that the principle that articles have headings is applied not only to Part I, II and IV but to Part III as well. Thereby the Constitutional Treaty will be better understood, not least by the ordinary citizen. This is a detail but the headings would increase the transparency of the Constitutional Treaty. Thereby, the Convention could really fulfil the demands from Nice and Laeken to simplify the Treaties in order to make them clearer and better understood. A proposal for the headings could be made by the working party of legal experts.

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