

**Intervention by Mr. Rytis Martikonis,  
Representative of the Lithuanian Government  
in the Convention on the future of the European Union**

**Plenary session of the Convention,  
March 22, 2002  
Brussels**

Mr. President,  
Dear colleagues,

Trying to combine agenda's points of the 'general debate' and the 'requests from the candidate countries' let me make two points in two minutes.

My first point is **on enlargement**, or rather on the reunification - as it was described by several speakers. It is clear that without success of enlargement there is no success for the 'future' projects of the Union.

Convention is relevant to this: in a way it is the first institution of an enlarged EU. Referring to the rules of procedure, I am sure that the representatives of the accession countries are here not for the attempts to prevent consensus but for its building, for learning the rules of a European game.

Enlarged Union with a constitution or constitutional treaty is a right ambition and Convention is a right way of preparation. Convention is a demonstration of Union's self-confidence and strength – in all its diversity and still with common objectives.

Mr. President,

My second point is a response to what you have called us upon in your opening speech - that is **on 'en-thousia'**. We will need it. Whether we discuss rules of procedure or challenges of Union's legitimacy and supranational democracy we will need inspiration.

I am sure that Youth Forum, which is foreseen for July will strengthen our enthusiasm and our beliefs. We may count on it. Those of us here who are in our thirties – we are enthusiastic. Otherwise we would not be here. I think my friends from Slovenia are enthusiastic as well as Mr. Nikolai Mladenov from Bulgaria.

And because we may count on your enthusiasm based on your experience, Mr. President, because we may count on enthusiasm of our colleagues Lamberto Dini and Hans van Mierlo, Lennart Meri and Ray MacSharry, Michel Barnier and Antonio Vitorino, we must be able to build on it and to carry on.

Mr. President, I suspect we are bound to succeed.