

**ADDRESS BY HE MR MESUT YILMAZ,
STATE MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY,
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE
(Brussels, 15-16 April 2002)**

MR CHAIRMAN,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS IS A MORE FOCUSED DISCUSSION ON THE DELIMITATION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES AND THE UNION.

THE DEBATE ON EUROPE'S NEW TASKS CANNOT BE REDUCED TO A MATTER OF OBJECTIVE CRITERIA. IT SHOULD BE BASED UPON OUR VISION ON EUROPE'S FUTURE ROLE IN GLOBAL RELATIONS. SO FAR, THE EXTERNAL CREDIBILITY OF THE UNION HAS BEEN CONFINED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THE UNION WILL CONTINUE TO BE A REGIONAL ECONOMIC POWER, UNLESS IT ACHIEVES POLITICAL FINALITY AND RESPONDS TO INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES. THE EXISTING IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROFILES OF THE UNION MUST BE REDRESSED WITHOUT DELAY.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE EUROPEAN UNION MUST BE A PROGRESSIVE FORCE, ABLE TO DELIVER POLICY OBJECTIVES ON A GLOBAL SCALE. THE MISSIONS OF THE UNION SHOULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ENABLE THE UNION TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE AT GLOBAL LEVEL. THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AND COOPERATION POLICY AS WELL AS THE EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY ARE KEY IN REINFORCING THIS ROLE.

OUR ULTIMATE AIM MUST BE A POLITICAL UNION OF AN ENLARGED EUROPE. WE RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR MORE POWERS FOR THE UNION, IF THESE OBJECTIVES ARE TO BE FULFILLED. THESE POWERS SHOULD BE CLEARLY DEFINED. BUT, AN EXCESSIVELY DETAILED CATALOGUE OF COMPETENCES, CAN ALSO PUT THE UNION'S DYNAMISM AND FLEXIBILITY AT STAKE. THE COMMUNITY METHOD COULD BE A BETTER TOOL IN DEALING WITH SOME NEW TASKS.

THE UNION SHOULD ACT AS A GLOBAL ACTOR. IT SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN AREAS WHERE THERE ARE TRANS-BOUNDARY IMPLICATIONS. THE EU SHOULD ASSUME A ROLE WHERE THERE IS AN ADDED VALUE IN INTEGRATION OR COORDINATION AT EU LEVEL. THE EU SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE ALLEVIATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISPARITIES BETWEEN AND WITHIN THE MEMBER STATES. COMMON POLICIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PEACE SHOULD BE DEvised AT EU LEVEL.

WE SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE DIVISION OF COMPETENCES BETWEEN THE UNION AND THE MEMBER STATES SHOULD BE CLARIFIED, SIMPLIFIED AND ADJUSTED IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FACING THE UNION. THE EU SHOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH NEW THREATS AGAINST GLOBAL PEACE AND STABILITY, IN PARTICULAR WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AND WITH THE DETERIORATION OF ENVIRONMENT.

THE EU IS PRIMARILY A UNION OF MEMBER STATES. ON THIS BASIS, THE BALANCE OF POWERS CAN BE ALTERED AS NECESSARY.

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENACT LEGISLATION IN THE ABSENCE OF EUROPEAN REGULATIONS. BUT WHERE EUROPEAN LEGISLATION EXISTS, IT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER NATIONAL LAW. WE REGARD THE TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE TO BE AMONG THE EXCLUSIVE POWERS OF THE MEMBER STATES. FISCAL OR EMPLOYMENT POLICIES COULD BE SUBJECT TO ENHANCED

COORDINATION. THE MAIN INITIATIVE MUST REMAIN WITH MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELDS LIKE EDUCATION AND CULTURE; THE SCOPE OF ACTION BY THE EU IN THESE FIELDS MAY BE SPECIFIED IN EACH CASE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID A RIGID SYSTEM OF DIVISION OF POWERS. WE SUPPORT THE IDEA OF REVIEWING THE LIST OF POWERS IN 10 YEARS TIME.

THE NEW FUSION BY THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS WILL CERTAINLY ENTAIL NEW PROSPECTS. THE UNION SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO OPERATE IN A MORE DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT.

THANK YOU.