

**Intervention by Mr. Rytis Martikonis,  
Representative of the Lithuanian Government**

**At the plenary session of the Convention on the future of the EU**

**April 15, 2002, Brussels**

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

Imminent task is **to continue developing European construction in a way that it would be able to function and to deliver: first of all in managing inherent diversity but also inbuilt necessity for unity**. Let me comment on two sets of policies/objectives, also taking principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as the ones that are still relevant in organising division of labour within the EU.

- Firstly, on economic development: introduction of single currency is a great success; as it was the case with the creation of the European internal market. The need to complete it and to coordinate our economies is recognised. But in parallel the Union should also give **further priority to policies that promote the social and economic cohesion**. Cohesion policies are investment policies, which increase the competitiveness of the EU as a whole. I would also relate that to research and innovation. On the other hand, agricultural policy (CAP) should remain 'common' in balancing the economic and social change in the countryside.

- My second point is on our security: policies related to internal and external security of the Union will play a special role for my country. Lithuania is preparing to play its role, too. Two of the present **frontiers of Lithuania eventually will become external frontiers of the Union**. We are aware of the responsibilities of building transparent, efficient and – still – friendly border. We are building up cooperation of different actors already now; and ongoing discussions show that it is an area for more 'communitarian' considerations. Common EU border management should not be inconceivable.

The other side of the same coin would be **Union's common good neighbourhood or proximity policy**. Lithuania embraces and promotes that. Baltic Sea cooperation as well as Union's Northern Dimension have proven their reputation and would further contribute to strengthening of this important part of Union's common foreign policy. [In this respect I would like to support many thoughts put forward for this meeting by Mrs Danuta Hubner, representative of the Polish government at the convention].

To conclude, Mr. President, the end result is the measure of the success of our ambition. As you might notice I was talking mostly **not about giving in or taking back powers and responsibilities but about sharing them**; since our joint success is of the greatest interest to me and to my country.