

## **Intervention by Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, UK Minister for Europe and member of the Convention**

### **Simplification of Instruments and Procedures**

Everyone at this Convention has agreed that Simplification forms the heart of what we're about. That if we can simplify key elements of the Treaties, we can start to address public disquiet about the European project. That we need a clear and accessible statement of our values and rights. And that all this will lay the foundation for an EU based more securely and clearly on the consent of our citizens.

But simplification of instruments and legislative processes is different. It is not about the consent of the people, so much as ensuring that the EU can **deliver** the outcomes its citizens want, in an effective way. Complexity is an issue of course. But most people are not worried exactly how we make laws nationally or in the regions. What matters to them is whether the resulting laws make sense, whether they deliver and how they can make their voice heard.

So, as we look at our legislative processes, let's do so with delivery in mind: delivery on more jobs, better security, a cleaner environment, the things that matter to daily life. In my view, that means making sure that we allow for individual solutions to individual problems. I hope Giuliano Amato's group will include case studies of legislation to look at why we used one particular instrument or process, and try to identify how we could have improved delivery. Let's make changes in areas where the present system hasn't worked. But let's not make the mistake of sacrificing delivery for a false god of simplicity.

That said, of course we must remove unnecessary complexity from our system if we can, by drawing clearer distinctions between detailed and framework legislation, and by clarifying the current categorisation of non-binding cooperation. But I still have reservations about any rigid hierarchy of norms. Previous attempts to devise such a system have failed for much the same reasons as we have rejected a catalogue of competences: we all appreciate the need for flexibility to deal with complex and sensitive areas of policy.

So, although I would support further work on rationalising legislative procedures, I would like to see a focus on securing the best quality of legislation, and the best outcomes for our people. These must be our yardsticks. Likewise on codecision and budgetary procedures. By all means simplify where we can. But delivery is what our people want.

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