

**ADDRESS BY MR. ALI TEKIN, MEMBER OF THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY TO BE MADE AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE CONVENTION
TO BE HELD ON 12-13 SEPTEMBER 2002**

MR. CHAIRMAN,

ONE OF THE MISSIONS OF THE CONVENTION AS SET OUT IN THE LAEKEN DECLARATION IS TO BRING THE EUROPEAN UNION CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS AND THIS OBJECTIVE NECESSITATES SIMPLIFICATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES CURRENTLY USED BY THE UNION. I AM OF THE VIEW THAT EFFORTS AIMED TO THIS END WOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THE DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE UNION.

ALTHOUGH DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, EFFORTS WERE AIMED AT STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY, TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE UNION, EFFORTS TO THIS END, HOWEVER, LED TO CREATION OF A SYSTEM WHICH HAS BECOME SO COMPLEX THAT IT CAN ONLY BE FOLLOWED AND UNDERSTOOD BY SPECIALISTS.

THE FACT THAT THERE EXISTS NUMEROUS LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES AND THAT THE CURRENT SYSTEM LACKS COHERENCY BRINGS THE URGENCY TO SEARCH FOR WAYS OF SIMPLIFYING THE CURRENT PROCEDURES AND ESTABLISHING A SYSTEMATIC LOGIC ON WHAT PROCEDURE TO USE FOR WHICH SUBJECT. THERE ARE AT PRESENT MORE THAN 22 DIFFERENT DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS. AS A START WE COULD SIMPLIFY THE CURRENT SETUP BY ABOLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES PRESENTLY IN DISUSE. FOR EXAMPLE, COOPERATION PROCEDURE WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT IS NOW ALMOST IN DISUSE; SINCE AMSTERDAM ONLY 5 LEGISLATIVE ACTS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE APPLICATION OF COOPERATION PROCEDURE, I SHARE THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION THAT THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

FURTHER SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES CAN BE ACHIEVED BY EXTENDING THE APPLICATION OF THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE WHICH HAS BECOME THE DOMINANT LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE IN APPLICATION. THIS WOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO EFFORTS AIMED AT INCREASING THE DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY OF THE UNION.

WIDER APPLICATION OF THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE SHOULD ALSO BE FOLLOWED BY GENERALIZATION OF THE USE OF QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING IN THE COUNCIL. APART FROM THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES WHICH CURRENTLY REQUIRES SIMPLE MAJORITY, QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING SHOULD BE APPLIED REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE MEASURES ARE EXECUTIVE OR LEGISLATIVE IN NATURE. ONLY IN CASES OF FOREIGN POLICY,

WHICH REMAINS TO BE THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE AMONG THE EU MEMBERS, UNANIMITY VOTING PROCEDURE CAN BE APPLIED.

ANOTHER AREA OF CONCERN IS HOW TO IMPROVE THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE AND MAKE IT LESS CUMBERSOME. THE TREATY ENVISAGES CONVENING OF THE CONCILIATION COMMITTEE IN THE EVENT OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL. HOWEVER, EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT RATHER THAN CONVENING A CONCILIATION COMMITTEE, TRIPARTITE TECHNICAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMISSION TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES. THIS TRIALOGUE MECHANISM WHICH IS NOT ENVISAGED IN THE TREATIES COULD BE PROVIDED WITH A LEGAL BASIS SINCE IT REFLECTS THE PRACTICAL SOLUTION DEVELOPED BY THE INSTITUTIONS FOR RESOLVING THEIR DIFFERENCES.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR ADDRESSING THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM AND I AM SURE THAT THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION WOULD PROVE HIGHLY USEFUL IN THIS REGARD.

THANK YOU.