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One of the goals of this Convention is to put forward a “European Project” that bridges the gap between the aspirations of the EU citizens, and the competencies and the policy tools currently available to the Union. Among the aspirations of the Union’s current and future citizens is the projection of the EU as an effective global actor. The idea of the Union as a global player requires, among others, going beyond a successful mechanism of creating economic prosperity and peace on the Continent.

Historical record of the successful unions indicates that for the EU to evolve further into being a global powerhouse we need to achieve in the near future an extension of its missions into various political areas. The EU is a living organism that has to move in order to remain healthy. This is the right time that the EU Project turns political, in addition to being economical, in line with the aspirations of its current and future citizens to see the Eu as a global force.

There is, therefore, a need to reorganize how the competences are divided among the EU and Member States. I believe that more competences must be attached to the Union with respect to several policy issues areas:

1. **Common foreign and security policy.** The EU as a global player requires a timely, effective foreign policy leadership with sufficiently strong mandate to formulate foreign policies, lead the world public opinion, and respond to fast evolving events around the globe.
2. **Common security and defense policy.** In order to be able to implement its common foreign and security policy, the Union needs a ready and able force to enforce its principles of peaceful coexistence with others, defend against “hard” and “soft” security threat and contribute to humanitarian activities when the need arises. The Union should utilize the existing capabilities it has its own mechanisms.
3. **Common policy towards empowerment of the world’s poorest.** All of you probably share the idea that the EU must have a well designed and executed common empowerment policies towards the poorest in Africa, Asia and other parts of the globe. This will show the whole world that the EU indeed cares globally.
4. **Common environment and energy policies.** These two issue areas area very much linked to the well-being of the current and future generations. The Union has been quite sensitive on environmental preservation, but there is a need for stronger coordination at the Union level. I believe that there must be further integrated approach to energy policy and its ties with the global energy markets and politics. This must be done at the Union level.

There is no question that the well known criteria for the allocation of competences among layers of governance, namely subsidiarity and proportionality, are important for the attainment of legitimacy in the EU. However, there are some other criteria that should

complement them, if the aspirations of the EU to become a global player is to be realized, which are pressed upon us by the new nature of global developments:

1. **Speed and flexibility.** There is sometimes a need for swift action at the EU level. In these situations, the EU needs institutional mechanism with a clearly defined mission and competence so that speedy and appropriate action can be taken. Common foreign and defense policies area cases in point.
2. **Efficiency and/or economies of scale.** The efficiency concerns sometimes can be so dominant that the action should be taken at the Union level. Because of stiff competition at the global level, in policy issue areas where there can be excessive duplication of efforts and significant waste of resources, the organization of such issue areas at the EU level will add to overall prosperity and peace. In the global world, size matters. Environmental policy, common energy policy and common R&D policy area such areas in concern. Better coordination at the Union level in these areas will ensure sustainability of the resources utilized for development.

I believe that the Treaty should enlist areas in which the Union is exclusively responsible, but does not need to explicitly enlist the competences of the member States. Those responsibilities not assigned to the Union should be assumed to be governed by the member States and/or sub-national entities.

The main criterion for such a decision should be the need for clarity as much as possible. This is important for the EU citizens to determine easily what layer of governance is responsible and accountable for what policy. This will contribute to the solution of the much-felt problem of democratic deficit across the Union.

There must be a mechanism of transfer of a competence between different layers of governance if such a need arises over time. Therefore, Article 308 of the Treaty should be redesigned to allow for transfer of competence from the EU to Member States when the need for Union action in a particular issue area becomes obsolete even though that is not very likely.