

**Contribution concerning the Final report of Working Group IX on
Simplification,
by senator Edmund Wittbrodt,
Representative of the Polish Parliament to the European Convention
Brussels, 5-th December 2002**

At the beginning I would like to congratulate to the chairman of the working group Mr. Giuliano Amato for his very good work he has done preparing the final report, and the way he was chairing the group. I agree with majority of the conclusions, but nevertheless I have some remarks.

To make the Union acts more transparent and easy to understand, **we should reduce the number of acts and procedures instead of introducing new ones**. That is why I propose combining the two types of acts: recommendations and opinions, because the difference between them is very insignificant. This new act could have a name: “recommendation” and would be defined as an act without binding force.

I support the idea that the **"framework decisions" and "decisions" provided for in Title VI should respectively become "directives" and "regulations"**. I perceive it as a solution for existence of too many acts, among which the difference is very slight. I am in favor, as well, of the abolition of convention as an instrument and replacing it by other acts, mostly regulations. In the field of Title V of the Treaty on the EU (Common Foreign and Security Policy), I do not support replacing all three instruments ("common strategies", "joint actions" and "common positions") by "CFSP decisions" or “CFSP implementing decisions”. The area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy suffers from decision making rules, not from legislative instruments.

I would like to underline also the need of standardizing and clarifying the terminology of the legal bases set out in the Treaty. In my opinion, though, **it is not necessary to add a new**

category of legislation: delegated act, as the Group suggested, because it will not enable further clarification of the legislation.

Taking into account simplification of the legislative procedures, I appreciate that the Final Report of the working group proposed **unification of the codecision procedure**, which is in accordance with the suggestions included in my contribution. It requires the complete abolition of the unanimous voting in the Council during this procedure. My proposal presumes as well abolition of the cooperation procedure and replacing it by the codecision, which would significantly reduce the number of procedures used by the Union. Moreover, I would like to focus on eliminating the Conciliation Committee phase and introducing strict time limits for each part of the cooperation procedure which must become a priority. I think that this Committee makes the procedure too long, too complex and inefficient.

Cases which are currently subject to the assent procedure (enlisted in the Final Report) should be moved to the codecision procedure with qualified-majority voting in the Council as agreed by the Group. It would guarantee further simplification of the legislative procedures. The assent procedure would be limited to only one case: the ratification of international agreements.

As I proposed in my contribution, I believe that the budgetary procedure should remain unchanged with one exception: **the division between compulsory and not compulsory expenditure must be abolished**. This change I regard as the most important because it strengthens the European Parliament's role in establishing the Union's budget.

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