

Working Group I

Working document 15

Working Group I on the Principle of Subsidiarity

Subject: Contribution to the proposals for Conclusions

Members of Working Group I will find hereafter a paper by Mr Jens Peter Bonde Member of the Convention

CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

To the Working Group I on subsidiarity Contribution to the proposals for Conclusions

By Jens-Peter Bonde

Preliminary, I would like to congratulate the working group and the Chairman on the good discussions devoted to the work on Subsidiarity so far and welcome the achievements as they are outlined in the initial proposal for conclusions (WD 9 - WGI).

The national parliaments authority in a subsidiarity early warning system is indeed very necessary and welcomed. It will be very simple for the Commission to present the annual legislative programme before the national parliaments. It is however not sufficient for the national parliaments to be 'involved' and 'alert', if this only means the possibility to give their opinion. Therefore, I address you to express my amendments to the initial conclusions.

Regarding proposal b):

- We should avoid setting up a new institution and instead give the framing of the initiative right to the national parliaments.
- The national parliaments shall adopt the legal base for any piece of community legislation and activity. The decision on the legal base should be taken when the Commission's annual legislative programme is presented to national parliaments.
- The national parliaments shall have the final say when decided on whether the Community can make binding regulations or recommendations.
- 20 members from each national parliament, could meet on an ad hoc basis, for example twice a year, to decide on the rolling legislative programme. With 20 members from each national parliament it will be possible to include all political directions in the national delegations.
- The final decision on the annual legislative programme could be taken by the national parliaments in a yes/no vote. To be adopted the annual programme could need the support of 75 % of the Member State parliaments representing 50 % of the population.