

Working Group IV

Working document 6

Working group IV – "Role of National Parliaments"

Subject: **Paper by Mr Panayiotis Demetriou, member of the Convention, for the
Working Group on National Parliaments**

Members of Working Group IV will find hereafter a paper by Mr Panayiotis Demetriou, member of the Convention.

Paper by Mr. Panayiotis Demetriou, Member of the Convention,
for the Working Group on National Parliaments

Following the discussion held at the first meeting of the Working Group on National Parliaments on the 26th June 2002, the proceeding Questionnaire may be considered as a useful basis of a more structured dialogue.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the role (actual and potential) of national parliaments at European Union level?
2. Do national parliaments play the role envisaged by Maastricht and Nice Declarations 13 and 23 respectively as well as by the Amsterdam Protocol?
3. Is it possible in practice for national parliaments to participate in the functioning of the European Union institutions (European Parliament, European Commission, Council)?
4. Is it possible, without adversely affecting the efficiency of the European Union, to make national parliaments part of the decision making process of the European Union?
5. If the direct involvement of national parliaments in the decision making process is not feasible, what role can national parliaments play ex ante and ex post the process on a national level over European issues?
6. Does the Amsterdam Protocol sufficiently reflect the European Union policy on the role of national parliaments in the European Union?

7. Should the Amsterdam Protocol be redrafted so as to more explicitly present the policy on the role of national parliaments vis-à-vis European issues?
8. (a) What are the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal suggesting the establishment of a Second Chamber representing national parliaments?

(b) - How should national parliaments be collectively represented in this Second Chamber?
 - Who should represent national parliaments?
 - To what extent should national parliaments be represented?
9. Should COSAC be reformed and strengthened so as to reinforce the role of national parliaments at European level?
10. Should the Conference of the Presidents of national parliaments be upgraded and institutionalized so as to become a more effective channel of communication between national parliaments and the European Union?
11. What steps should be taken to enable the establishment and development of co-operation between national parliaments and the European Parliament?
12. Should the European Commission establish relations with national parliaments and how?
13. What is the impact of the subsidiarity principle on the role of national parliaments at European level?
14. Should the role of national parliaments be explicitly referred to in a Constitutional Treaty?