

Working Group IV

Working document 35

Working group IV – "Role of National Parliaments"

Subject: **The comments by Ms Johanna Maij-Weggen to the draft final report of Working Group IV on National Parliaments (WD 032 - WG IV)**

Members of Working Group IV will find hereafter comments by Ms Johanna Maij-Weggen, member of the European Parliament and of the Convention.

Amendments on the text of the "Draft Final Report" of Working Group IV on National Parliaments by Hanja Maij-Weggen

Article 8, the second part should read as follows:

- The Council should act in public, not only in all cases where it exercises its legislative functions, i.e. not only under the codecision procedure, but also as much as possible in all other cases where decisions are taken.
- Records of proceedings should be sent within 10 days to the European Parliament and the national parliaments, parallel to the transmission to governments.

Article 11

The brackets at the last sentence can be put off.

Article 14

Delete the words "if requested" in the last part of this article.

Article 15

Delete the words "if requested" in the last part of this article.

Article 17

The second part of this article should read as follows:

"The Working Group has the opinion that also no preliminary agreements can be decided upon within the 6 weeks period. The relevant provisions of the protocol should be amended accordingly."

Article 19

In the sentence "...the Working Group also thought it would be useful if the Commission presented its annual legislative programme..." the word "presented" should be changed into "transmitted".

Article 20

first dash: Delete the words "if requested" in the first sentence. The second sentence should read:

"Legislative proposals and consultative documents should be transmitted simultaneously to the European Parliament, to the Council and to national parliaments."

second dash: The following part of the sentence should be deleted: "...during the first (two/three/four) weeks after the transmission of the text to the Council and national parliaments...".

third dash: the word "present" should be changed into "transmit".

fourth dash: This should be deleted.

Article 24

The first sentence should read as follows:

"The majority of the Group.....purpose."

The last part of the third sentence ("...but also towards the end...proposal.") should read as follows:

"...but also in cases where the text has changed considerably compared to the original proposal."

The last sentence ("Some members underlined...parliament.") should be deleted.

Article 25

The three dashes should be deleted, because this should be stated in Article 26.

Article 26

This wording makes the details in Article 25 unnecessary.

Article 27

The sentence "Members welcomed the initiative underway by the Danish Presidency in this respect." should be rephrased into "Some members welcomed the initiative underway by the Danish Presidency in this respect."

Article 33

The second sentence should read as follows: "Some members of the Group....format."

Article 34

The whole article should be deleted (this should be discussed at the moment we discuss the future institutional structures).

Article 35

This article should also be deleted. Motivation: Ad hoc interparliamentary conferences in the EU can be avoided if the relevant European Parliamentary Committees invite members of the national parliaments to discuss special items (this is common practice already).

Article 36

This article should be deleted. We have to be careful to create strange European structures of which nobody understands their real responsibilities.

Article 37

First point: oké

The second point should read as follows: "The European Parliament can organise hearings with members of the national parliaments on specific items."

Third point: Delete this point, because this needs a debate on an institutional level with respect to the current balance between the institutions.

Fourth point: Delete this point. We are working on a constitution, not on informal actions.

Fifth point: Delete this point (see Article 35).

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