

Working Group IV

Working document 40

## **Working group IV – "Role of National Parliaments"**

**Subject:**      **The comments by Mr Panayiotis Demetriou 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 Mr Panayiotis Demetriou, representative of the Parliament of Cyprus, member of the Convention

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**Contribution by Mr. Panayiotis Demetriou, Member of the Convention on the future of the European Union and the Working Group on National Parliaments**

The ideas adopted in the Draft Final Report of the Working Group on National Parliaments are welcomed.

However, there are some suggestions for amendments, which are set out below:

**Para. 5**

*The Working Group recommends to the Convention that the future Treaty contain a clear recognition of the role of national parliaments [through specific wording in the (preamble of the) Constitutional Treaty].*

- The words in brackets should remain in the text.

**Para. 8**

*The future Constitutional Treaty should [in its preamble] contain specific wording that acknowledges the importance of the active involvement of national parliaments in the activities of the EU and their [responsibility to act as a] direct link to the citizens.*

- The words in brackets should remain in the text.

**Para. 13, 14, 15, 20**

- Where the phrase *[if requested]* is used, the words in brackets should be deleted.

**Para. 15**

*The Group considers that the definition of legislative proposals should be set out more clearly.*

- Details should be provided as to the formulation of the definition, and as to what other additional legislative proposals should be included in the definition.

**Para. 17, 20**

*...during the first [two/three/four] weeks of this period, Council Working Groups should not acknowledge any preliminary agreement on proposals.*

- The four week period should preferred.

#### Para. 25

*[The national parliaments' early warning mechanism should be strengthened, perhaps requiring the Commission formally to withdraw a draft legislative proposal for a short period while it considers reasoned opinions of national parliaments.]*

- The words in brackets should remain in the text.
- The phrase “for a short period” should be defined.

#### Para. 28 and 37

*...the method of convening a Convention should be formalised in a Constitutional Treaty.*

- It should be examined whether the merits and the disadvantages of the Convention as a method of reform been sufficiently estimated. I am rather negative to the idea.

#### Para. 30 - 37

- The role of COSAC should be institutionalised through relevant Treaty provisions.
- No new institutions should be formed, as the creation of new institutions will add to the existing complexities.

**An inconsistency vis-à-vis the issue in question has been noted:** whereas in paragraph 27, “*Members expressed a general reluctance to create new institutional structures, which would add to the complexity of the institutional landscape in the eyes of the citizens*”, in paragraph 37 the creation of such a new institution is proposed.

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