

Working Group IV

Working document 44

Working group IV – "Role of National Parliaments"

Subject: **The comments by Ms Maria Eduarda Azevedo 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 Maria Eduarda Azevedo, representative of the Portuguese Parliament, member of the Convention.

Working group IV – "Role of National Parliaments"

Lisbon, 11 October 2002

Subject: **Comments on Draft final report WD 32**

Maria Eduarda Azevedo

1. In general terms the draft report deserves all my support as a very well balanced document that includes the common points expressed by the vast majority of the members during the WG meetings.

2. The following points are just minor comments made with a positive purpose of improving the ability of the text to be approved:

All references to the inclusion of the role of national parliaments in the Treaty should be made in an article of the Treaty instead of the preamble. The preamble of a Treaty has different meanings in the law system of each Member State and it would be better to recognise national parliaments in the same way all over the countries.

All references to the future role of the COSAC should wait for the results of the next COSAC meeting of Copenhagen. Therefore point 11 last sentence in brackets and point 20 last paragraph should be eliminated.

Furthermore, the relationship between the COSAC and the "Congress" should be defined in this draft report because there is the danger of overlapping structures that would perform the same purposes and tasks. This definition should already be subject of a proposal in the WG and not be left to the plenary of the Convention.

In point 7 the second and third sentence should be eliminated because they are redundant.

In point 12 the possibility of establishing a Code of Conduct or an Interparliamentary Agreement should be taken into consideration instead of amending the Treaty protocol. The Treaty protocol would give more strength to its dispositions but would be more difficult to amend.
