

Working Group VII

Working document 1

Working group VII – "External Action"

Subject: " Proposal to the European Convention on EU trade policy "
- Paper by Mr Göran Lennmarker, member of the Convention

Members of Working Group VII will find hereafter a paper by Mr Göran Lennmarker, representative of the Swedish Parliament, member of the Convention.

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Contribution to the European Convention

This paper is a proposal to the European Convention on EU trade policy. The matter falls within the scope of Working Group VII.

One of the tasks of the European Convention, and in particular its Working Group on External Action, is to consider how "the consistency of the Union's activities [should] be ensured, coordinating all the instruments available to it (including development aid, humanitarian action, financial assistance, trade policy, etc.)".¹ This highlights a real problem facing the European Union in its external action, namely the lack of co-ordination.

The Treaty of Rome (articles 25, 28 and 29 TEC) abolished tariffs and quantitative restrictions within the European Union. Through enlargement, customs union and association agreements practically the whole of Europe will be free of tariffs and quantitative restrictions. This is a historic achievement that contributes to peace, freedom and prosperity in our continent.

Fifty years later, time has come to abolish The Union's tariffs and quantitative restrictions to the outside world. This will benefit Europe itself, since it will increase competition and thus raise productivity and prosperity. Even more importantly, it will also benefit the developing world which needs better access to our single European market. Recent rounds of global negotiations have highlighted that the EU is seen as giving with one hand (humanitarian and development aid) and taking it back with the other (tariffs).

The European Convention must grasp the historic opportunity to enshrine, in a future Constitutional Treaty, the goal of abolishing all tariffs and quantitative restrictions.

Göran Lennmarker

¹ Quote from mandate for Working Group No. VII on External Action, doc. CONV 206/02, point 2.