

Working Group VII

Working document 35

Working group VII – "External Action"

Subject: **The comments by Mr Péter Balázs to the preliminary draft final report of Working Group VII on External Action (WD 021 - WG VII)**

Members of Working Group VII will find hereafter comments by Mr Péter Balázs, Hungarian government representative, member of the Convention.

Working Group VII – " External Action "

Contribution to the final report

Document presented by Mr Péter Balázs, member of the Convention

I hereby would like to provide comments and proposals to some points of the final report.

1. Proposal to the subject of competence

The conclusion of the WG as it is expressed under point 15 states that the Presidency has a particular competence representing the CFSP policy. Regarding this, I refer to the different proposals some of them changing the system of the Presidency. The point 15 should be completed with the following text:

“The symbol and fundamental principle of maintaining the equality of the Member States might be matched with the objective of increasing efficiency. Therefore we have to maintain the rotating Presidency and twin with the suggestion of “Team Presidency”. One possible version of the proposed twin-model would be a so-called “four wheel drive” team Presidency, which might be composed of three old Member States and be strengthened by a fourth new Member State having real competencies as well. The period of each Presidency would be one and half or two years. Even under the twin-model a rotating Presidency has a motivating effect on national administration and helps to give the Community a face with its citizens.”

2. Comment to the subject of instruments and decision making

I fully share that it is necessary to improve the efficiency and coherence of development co-operation policy. In line with the conclusion of final report expressed under point 41, I stress the importance that the EDF could be integrated into the Community budget and thus be subject to the same procedure as the other areas of Community financial assistance:

Consequently the last important sentence of point 41 should be presented without bracket.

3. Proposal to the subject of services and external representation

The title should be amended as follows: external representation and services. Underlining the strategic importance that the EU intends to be a global player in the world, in line with the conclusion of final report expressed under point 46, I fully share the conclusion of the WG to strengthen the representation of the Community. The point 46 should be completed with the following text:

“There is a space to extend and strengthen the direct representation of the Community, mostly of the Commission, in many fields and enhance the synergy in those fields where the Community and Member States are represented simultaneously. This could efficiently contribute to the achievement of the goal that the EU should have a “common and strong voice” on the global scene with a particular preference to the role of the Commission in this field.”

4. Proposal to the subject of principle and objectives of EU External action

Objectives of common policies have been defined in annex. Among these goals under point c) it is stated to encourage the integration of all countries into the world economy, including through the abolition of restrictions on international trade. The point c) should be completed with the following text:

“The Community itself protects, if necessary, the common market with a view to play a more positive role in spreading the common norms among others by reducing the application of antidumping procedures.”