

NOTE

Subject : **Note on the inaugural meeting** *
 – **28 February 2002, Brussels**

1. The meeting was opened under the chairmanship of Mr José Maria Aznar, President of the European Council. ¹

Mr José Maria Aznar, President of the European Council, Mr Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament, and Mr Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission each delivered a speech. These speeches may be found in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 respectively to CONV 4/02.

2. Mr Aznar then declared the Convention open and called on its Chairman, Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Mr Giscard d'Estaing's speech is set out in Annex 4 to CONV 4/02.

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* The Secretariat wishes to inform members of the Convention that as well as this summary note, a verbatim record of the meeting will be made available to them through the good offices of the European Parliament's staff. The verbatim record will also appear on the European Parliament's website.

¹ The attendance list is contained in Annex 1 hereto.

3. Following a break, the Chairman Mr Giscard d'Estaing opened the proceedings of the Convention, presenting the Vice-Chairmen Mr G. Amato and Mr J.L. Dehaene, and the other members of the Praesidium listed in Annex 2 hereto.
4. He then submitted the provisional timetable of meetings for the Convention and the Praesidium up to mid-July 2002 to the members of the Convention, explaining the reasoning behind it (CONV 2/02).
5. The floor was then given to Mr Amato and Mr Dehaene, Vice-Chairmen of the Convention, and subsequently to members of the Convention who wished to speak. The list of members who spoke is given in Annex 3.

Mr Amato pointed out that a large number of studies could assist the Convention's proceedings. In particular, he invited members of the Convention to acquaint themselves with documents from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament, particularly as regards the powers of the Union and the role of national Parliaments. He also referred to the usefulness of the reports by the European University Institute in Florence on the reorganisation of the Treaties.

Mr Dehaene gave a broad outline of the debate with civil society to be held via the Forum. This is a multidimensional concept, with listening activities and dialogue on four levels:

- on the internet via the Convention website;
- in each national Forum in the Member States and candidate countries;
- with observers from the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the social partners and non-governmental organisations, whom he urged to come together;
- at the level of the Convention itself.

During the debate which followed, the points made by members of the Convention who spoke included the following:

- The historical importance of the Convention for the future of the Union in the process of enlargement.
 - The Convention provided a unique opportunity to bring European construction closer to the citizen. Many speakers stressed that a genuine dialogue should be established with civil society. The listening activities of the Forum must continue throughout the Convention's proceedings, and the debate must continue at national level.
 - Speakers from the candidate countries stressed that they were prepared to make a substantial contribution to the proceedings of the Convention, and said that they did not want the candidate countries to constitute a separate group, but wanted at least one seat in the Praesidium to be reserved for them and the most important documents of the Convention to be translated into their languages.
 - Regarding relations between the Praesidium and the Convention, the Chairman gave the assurance that the Praesidium would be at the service of the Convention, for example by introducing the various topics for debate. He also indicated that the Convention's working meetings would in future be held in another chamber, which was smaller and more convivial.
6. The Chairman closed the meeting, stating that members of the Convention could send the Convention Secretariat their written suggestions concerning the draft Rules of Procedure (CONV 3/02) by Friday 8 March.
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ATTENDANCE LIST

PRAESIDIUM

Mr Valéry GISCARD D'ESTAING
Mr Giuliano AMATO
Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE
Mr Michel BARNIER
Mr Antonio VITORINO
Mr Iñigo MENDEZ DE VIGO
Mr Klaus HÄNSCH
Mr John BRUTON
Ms Gisela STUART
Ms Ana Palacio VALLELERSUNDI
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN
Mr Giorgos KATIFORIS

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS
Mr Michael ATTALIDES
Mr Paraskevas AVGERINOS
Ms Eduarda AZEVEDO
Mr Alain BARRAU
Ms Irena BELOHORSKÁ
Mr Jens-Peter BONDE
Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
Mr Reinhard Eugen BÖSCH
Mr Elmar BROK
Mr Gabriel CISNEROS LABORDA
Mr Alberto COSTA
Mr Karel DE GUCHT

Mr Proinsias DE ROSSA
Mr João de VALLERA
Mr Panayiotis DEMETRIOU
Mr Elio DI RUPO
Mr Lamberto DINI
Mr Andrew Nicholas DUFF
Mr Olivier DUHAMEL
Mr Caspar EINEM
Mr Hannes FARNLEITNER
Mr Ben FAYOT
Mr Ján FIGEL
Mr Gianfranco FINI
Mr Marco FOLLINI
Mr Michael FRENDÓ
Mr Slavko GABER
Mr Peter GLOTZ
Mr Hubert HAENEL
Mr Peter HAIN
Mr Pavol HAMZIK
Mr David HEATHCOAT-AMORY
Mr Paul HELMINGER
Ms Lena HJELM-WALLÉN
Ms Danuta HÜBNER
Mr Edvins INKENS
Ms Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN
Mr Jan KAVAN
Mr Timothy KIRKHOPE
Ms Meglena KUNEVA
Mr Alain LAMASSOURE
Mr Sören LEKBERG
Mr Göran LENNMARKER
Ms Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN
Mr Liviu MAIOR
Mr Luís MARINHO

Mr Rytis MARTIKONIS
Mr János MARTONYI
Ms Eleni MAVROU
Ms Linda McAVAN
Mr Ray McSHARRY
Mr Alvydas MEDALINSKAS
Mr Jürgen MEYER
Mr Nikolai MLADENOV
Mr Pierre MOSCOVICI
Ms Cristiana MUSCARDINI
Mr Matjaž NAHTIGAL
Mr Jozef OLEKSY
Mr Alojz PETERLE
Mr Rihards PIKS
Mr Jacques SANTER
Mr Peter SERRACINO-INGLOTT
Mr Peter SKAARUP
Mr József SZÁJER
Mr Antonio TAJANI
Mr Ali TEKIN
Mr Erwin TEUFEL
Ms Teija TIILIKAINEN
Mr Frans TIMMERMANS
Mr Daniel VALCHEV
Mr René VAN DER LINDEN
Ms Anne VAN LANCKER
Mr Hans van MIERLO
Mr Matti VANHANEN
Mr Pál VASTAGH
Mr Johannes VOGGENHUBER
Mr Edmund WITTBRODT
Ms Marietta YANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU
Ms Ayfer YILMAZ
Mr Mesut YILMAZ

Mr Jan ZAHRADIL
Mr Josef ZIELENIEC
Mr Roberts ZILE

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Mr Pierre CHEVALIER
Mr Pierre VIMONT
Mr Bobby McDONAGH
Mr Francesco E. SPERONI
Mr Nicolas SCHMIT
Mr Thom de BRUIJN
Ms Lena HALLENGREN
Baroness SCOTLAND OF ASTHAL
Mr Marios MATSAKIS
Ms Androula VASSILIOU
Ms Dolores CRISTINA
Mr George VELLA
Mr András KELEMEN
Mr István SZENT-IVÁNYI
Mr Adrian SEVERIN
Mr Frantisek ŠEBEJ
Ms Olga KELTOŠOVÁ
Mr Maris SPRINDŽUKS
Ms Inese BIRZNIECE
Mr Rolandas PAVILIONIS
Ms Dalia KUTRAITE-GIEDRAITIENE
Mr Alexander ARABADJIEV
Mr Nesrin UZUN
Mr František KROUPA
Ms Danica SIMŠIČ
Mr Mihael BREJC

Mr A. Emre KOCAOĞLU
Ms Teresa ALMEIDA GARRETT
Mr John WALLS CUSHNAHAN
Mr Reinhard RACK
The Earl of STOCKTON
Mr Joachim WUERMEILING
Mr Pervenche BERÈS
Ms Maria BERGER
Mr Carlos CARNERO GONZÁLEZ
Ms Elena Ornella PACIOTTI
Mr Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT
Ms Lone DYBKJAER
Mr Neil MacCORMICK
Mr Esko Olavi SEPPÄNEN
Mr William ABITBOL
Mme Marie NAGY
Mr Per DALGAARD
Mr Peter ALTMAIER
Mr Diego LÓPEZ GARRIDO
Mr Alejandro MUÑOZ ALONSO
Mr Robert BADINTER
Mr Martin CULLEN
Mr Valdo SPINI
Mr Filadelfio BASILE
Mr Wim VAN EEKELEN
Mr Hans VAN BAALEN
Ms Evelin LICHTENBERGER
Mr Gerhard KURZMANN
Ms Riitta KORHONEN
Mr Esko HELLE
Lord TOMLINSON
Lord MACLENNAN OF ROGART
Mr Paolo PONZANO

PRAESIDIUM

Chairman

President Valéry GISCARD d'ESTAING

Vice-Chairmen

Mr Giuliano AMATO

Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE

**Representatives of the Governments holding the Presidency
of the Council during the Convention**

Ms Ana PALACIO

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Mr Georges KATIFORIS

Representatives of the national Parliaments

Mr John BRUTON

Ms Gisela STUART

Representatives of the European Parliament

Mr Klaus HÄNSCH

Mr Íñigo MÉNDEZ DE VIGO

Representatives of the European Commission

Mr Michel BARNIER

Mr António VITORINO

List of members of the Convention who spoke during the debate *

Mr Janos Martonyi, representative of the Hungarian Government

Ms Marietta Yannakou-Koutsikou , member of the Greek Parliament

Ms Hanja Maij-Weggen, member of the European Parliament, the Netherlands

Mr Ray McSharry, representative of the Irish Government

Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, member of the Finnish Parliament

Ms Anne Van Lancker, member of the European Parliament, Belgium

Mr Tunne Kelam, member of the Estonian Parliament

Mr Olivier Duhamel, member of the European Parliament, France

Mr Jan Kavan, representative of the Czech Government

Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallén, representative of the Swedish Government

Mr Elmar Brok, member of the European Parliament, Germany

Ms Irena Belhorska, member of the Slovak Parliament

Mr Johannes Vogenhuber, member of the European Parliament, Austria

Mr Michel Barnier, member of the European Commission,

Mr Andrew Duff, member of the European Parliament, United Kingdom.

* Members who were unable to speak because of time constraints, particularly in connection with the availability of interpreters, will have priority at the next meeting.