

COVER NOTE

from : Praesidium
to : The Convention
Subject : Convention session of 15-16 April 2002
- The missions of Europe

1. Members of the Convention will find attached a number of questions that they may wish inter alia to consider and address in the debate on 15/16 April. These questions are not of course intended to be exclusive.
2. Members of the Convention may also wish to note that an information note, prepared by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Praesidium, is circulated as doc. CONV 17/02 . This paper attempts, in slightly simplified form, to describe the present system of delimitation of competencies between the EU and Member States.
3. Further documents will be circulated with a view to preparing the debate of the May Convention session, which will be devoted to the question of "how the EU fulfils its missions" (how the EU exercises its competencies).

EUROPE: WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE? THE UNION'S MISSIONS

The Convention's debate on 21/22 March provided some first insights into how Convention members see the priorities of the European Union. But we need greater clarity, and greater specificity. Convention members may wish inter alia to consider, and address in the debate on 15/16 April, the following questions (which are not of course intended to be exclusive):

- (a) Taking into account the new dimension of the Union, the present international environment, its present remit, and the aspirations of its citizens, would you give the Union more tasks? If so, what should be added? Or would you give it fewer tasks? If so, giving which tasks back to Member States?
- (b) In expressing your preference, what criteria do you use for deciding which missions should be carried out at Union level? And what, in your view, should be the principles on which the Convention should base such decisions?
- (c) Should the Treaties explicitly decide that responsibilities not covered by the missions of the Union remain with Member States? Or should these competences be spelt out in the Treaties? What in your view should be such responsibilities, and what criteria do you use in drawing up your list? And what, in your view, should be the principles on which the Convention might base such decisions?
- (d) Should the missions of the Union be settled now, for all time? Or should the possibility of further evolution be foreseen?

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