

**NOTE**

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from	Praesidium
to	The Convention
Subject :	The Role of National Parliaments in the European architecture

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1. The Praesidium envisage that the Convention session on 6-7 June should be partly devoted to a first exchange of views on the role of National Parliaments in the European architecture. As a basis for the debate, Convention members may wish to consider document CONV 67/02, which contains a first outline of current arrangements within Member States' Parliaments, and a list of the various proposals which have been so far made for improved co-ordination between national Parliaments, or for new institutional structures.
2. The purpose of the debate is to provide the Convention with an opportunity to give some preliminary guidance to the Working Group which will look into these matters in greater depth. In that context it would be helpful if members of the Convention would consider so framing their interventions as to cover the following questions:
  - i) How could one assist the national Parliaments to play their crucial role in ensuring the democratic legitimacy of Union action?
  - ii) Arrangements for control by National Parliaments of the positions adopted by their governments in Council vary between Member States. Though such arrangements are of course entirely a matter for national competence, would there be value in assessing which work best, and exchanging "best practice"?

- iii) Would it be appropriate to strengthen existing machinery for cooperation between national Parliaments? And with the European Parliament?
- iv) Should the possibility be considered of national Parliaments being represented collectively in a new institution? If so, how should this be composed and what should be its competences?
- v) Should provision be made for the compulsory consultation of national Parliaments in the event of an enlargement of competences being considered? If so, in what form?

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