

**COVER NOTE**

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from : Praesidium

to : Convention

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Subject : **Convention meeting on 6 and 7 June 2002**  
**- Strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice**

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1. The Praesidium proposed that the Council should devote an important part of its meeting on 6 and 7 June to questions relating to the area of freedom, security and justice. This is an important subject which has been addressed by numerous members of the Convention at previous meetings, particularly that devoted to European expectations.
2. As background document for the discussion, the members of the Convention are invited to take note of CONV 69/02, which describes the current situation and contains some paths or questions to explore.
3. With this document as background, in particular the questions contained in the last part, the members of the Convention are invited to address the following questions or problems in their contributions:
  - i) What, in your opinion, do the citizens of Europe expect as regards freedom, security and justice? What are the activities in the area of crime which may necessitate closer cooperation at European level?
  - ii) Is there a need to clarify and simplify the instruments available to the Union in the area of justice and home affairs?

- iii) in the light of experience, to what extent should the structures and procedures now in place be changed?
  - iv) How can democratic legitimacy in decision-making in the JHA sphere be bolstered or strengthened? How do national parliaments intend to exercise their powers in the area of justice and security with regard to matters at present covered by the third pillar?
  - v) Should thought be given to the creation of new joint bodies to guarantee border protection and to allocating Europol an operational role?  
If so, what form should their cooperation with the national authorities take and what political and judicial control should be applied to them?
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