

**NOTE**

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from :	Secretariat
to :	Convention
Subject :	Preparations for plenary session devoted to civil society (24-25 June)

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1. The Secretariat would like to draw the attention of Members of the Convention to some aspects of the arrangements for the plenary session devoted to civil society.
2. Seven contact groups, each covering one specific sector of civil society, and chaired by one member of the Praesidium, have already been established and dates fixed. A list is attached. Information has been posted on the Convention website about how organisations from civil society can participate.
3. The creation of an eighth group bringing together organisations in the area of citizenship and institutions arose from a number of requests from non-governmental organisations. Mr Dehaene will chair this group, which will meet on 14 June in the afternoon.
4. **Members of the Convention are encouraged to attend some or all of these group meetings.** They are invited to inform the Convention Secretariat if they would like to do so.
5. The national debates are a key element in the dialogue devoted to civil society. It has been agreed that part of the second June session will be devoted to them. In order to provide an overview of arrangements in each country, **Members of the Convention are invited to coordinate nationally and submit to the secretariat by 14 June a short (2-3 pages) written summary of the arrangements for their national debate, the progress made, and the main issues which have emerged.**

Details of the groups are as follows:

**CONTACT GROUPS – SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROUP</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
Mon. 10 June 2002	Regions and local authorities	Palacio	Council Press Room
Wed. 12 June 2002	Culture	Peterle	European Parliament or Council Press Room
Thu. 13 June 2002	Social sector	Hänsch	Council Press Room * or UK briefing room (Council)
	Academia and think tanks	Amato	UK briefing room (Council)*or Council Press Room
Friday. 14 June 2002 (pm)	Citizens and Institutions	Dehaene	To be confirmed
Mon. 17 June 2002	Human Rights	Vitorino	Council Press Room * or UK briefing room (Council)
	Environment	Katiforis	UK briefing room (Council) *or Council Press Room
Tue. 18 June 2002	Development	Christophersen	Council Press Room

\* Depending on attendance.