

NOTE

from : Secretariat
to : **Working Group on Economic Governance**
Subject : **Introductory meeting: 7 June**
Outcome of proceedings

1. Calendar of meetings

- The Chairman circulated a draft calendar of future meetings of the Working Group. In the light of comments made by members of the Group, the Chairman agreed to examine whether it would be possible to adjust the calendar to:
 - i) have longer meetings, but at less frequent intervals;
 - ii) hold meetings as far as possible back-to-back with plenary sessions.

2. Working methods

- The group agreed that briefing on the outcome of meetings could be provided if there was interest from the press.
- The group agreed that each member could be accompanied by one assistant, but that, with the exception of Commissioner Barnier, members could not be replaced in the event of absence.
- The group agreed that interpretation to and from English and French would be provided for its meetings, with the possibility of passive interpretation from several additional languages. In response to a request from one member, the President undertook to look into the possibility of adding active German interpretation.
- The group agreed that in order to save time, written contributions (maximum 2-3 pages) on the agenda items for each meeting should be submitted to the secretariat by members in advance, by a deadline to be agreed previously by the group. A compendium of all contributions would then be circulated to all members by the secretariat before each meeting. The President informed the group that the secretariat would circulate a list of issues covered by the working group mandate accompanied by the relevant Treaty bases. The President would also circulate his own paper setting out the same issues, but giving the relevant references to the draft Treaty drawn up by the Florence Institute. This would be by way of an example of a possible approach.

3. Working Group mandate

- The group had a discussion on the mandate document (CONV 76/02). A number of suggestions were made for amendment/addition. The President took note of the suggestions, underlined the importance of avoiding too rigid an interpretation of the mandate, and asked for written comments on the document to be sent to the secretariat by 14 June.

4. Hearings

- The group agreed that it would be valuable to have hearings with experts, in particular Commissioners Solbes and Diamantopoulou, a representative from the ECB, and possibly representatives from the academic world. The possibility of inviting written contributions from experts was also raised. The President invited members of the group to send in any other suggestions in writing.

5. Next meeting

- The President suggested that the next meeting address the issues in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document CONV 76/02, and members were invited to send written comments on these issues to the secretariat by 14 June at the latest.

Action: **President to circulate revised calendar of meetings.**

Members to inform the secretariat before the next meeting of names of the person who will accompany them to future meetings.

Members to send secretariat by 14 June any additional comments on the group's mandate (CONV 76/02).

Members to send to secretariat any suggestions for expert hearings.

Members to send secretariat by 14 June preliminary comments on issues covered in paragraphs 5 and 6 of CONV 76/02.

Secretariat to circulate compendium of these comments before next meeting.

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