

FORWARDING NOTE

from : Secretariat

to : Convention

Subject : Annex II to the Conclusions of the Seville European Council
 - exchange of letters

Members of the Convention will find attached a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Convention by Mr. Paraskevas Avgerinos, member of the Convention, as well as the Chairman's reply.



Athens, 2 July 2002

MR VALERIE GISCARD D'ESTAING
President of the Convention for the Future of Europe

Dear President,

Annex II of the Conclusions of the European Council of Seville refers to changes in the structure and function of the Council.

It is stated: “In order to improve the function of the Council with the view of enlargement, the European Council approves the following changes....”

I believe that the Council should not proceed to the reform of an institution before the conclusion of the works of the Convention. Even if the Council decides not to accept our proposals, it cannot ignore our mission. Inevitably, such a behavior raises doubts on the importance that the European Council attaches to the work of the Convention.

I strongly believe that the Convention should discuss and condemn this action of the European Council.

Yours sincerely,

Paraskevas Avgerinos
Representative of the Greek Parliament

c.c Members of the Convention for the Future of Europe

Brussels, 10 July 2002

Mr Paraskevas Avgerinos

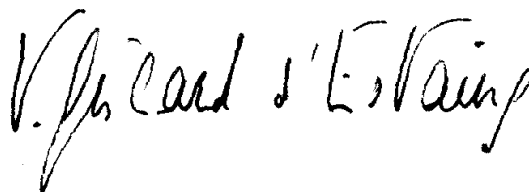
Dear Mr Avgerinos,

Thank you for your letter of 2 July 2002 in which you draw my attention to Annex II of the Conclusions of the European Council of Seville.

You suggest that the Convention should condemn the action of the Seville European Council concerning the reform of the Council. Alas I cannot agree with you. The European Council is perfectly entitled to seek to improve its working methods, and those of the Council; and I note that the improvements agreed at Seville all fall within the existing legal framework. The Convention's task is to examine possible reforms that would go further and would require modifications of the Treaty.

I do not think it would be wise for the Convention to appear to wish to block autonomous reforms within the European institutions.

Yours sincerely,



Valéry Giscard d'Estaing