

NOTE

from Secretariat
to The Convention

Subject : Working Groups: Second Wave

1. On 17 May, the Praesidium informed the Convention (document CONV 52/02) of the mandates of the first group of 6 Working Groups, and invited inscriptions. On 11 July the President informed the Convention that the Praesidium considered it right to establish from September a second group of 4 additional Working Groups.
2. Attached at Annex are mandates for the Groups on "External Action" and "Defence", which have been prepared in the light of points made in the plenary debate on 11/12 July. Also attached is the mandate for the Group on "Simplification of Legislative Procedures, and Instruments", which has been prepared in the light of the first Convention debate on 23/24 May on Instruments (see document CONV 162/02) and will if necessary be revised in the light of the debate on 12/13 September. (Also attached, for the convenience of members of the Convention, is the mandate for the Group on "Security and Justice", which has already been circulated: CONV 179/02.)

3. The following arrangements have been agreed:

Group VII	External Action
Chairman:	Vice-President Dehaene
Deadline:	early December
Secretariat:	Giannella, van den Heuvel, de Peyron, Pilette
Group VIII	Defence
Chairman:	M. Barnier
Deadline:	November
Secretariat:	Giannella, Milton, Schiavo, Bartol
Group IX	Simplification
Chairman:	Vice-President Amato
Deadline:	early December
Secretariat:	Martinez, Arpio, Bribosia
Group X	Security/Justice
Chairman:	Mr Bruton
Deadline:	November
Secretariat:	Passos, de Poncins, Ladenburger

4. As before, the guiding criteria for the composition of the Working Groups is that of specific expertise. The Praesidium invites Convention members, alternates and observers to express their interest in taking part in any of the four new Working Groups (listing them in order of preference when interested in more than one). This information should be communicated to the Convention Secretariat by Tuesday 3 September, for the attention of Ms Martinez Iglesias (e-mail: maria-jose.martinez-iglesias@consilium.eu.int / fax no. + 32 2 285 5060). The composition of the Working Groups will be determined by the Praesidium on the above basis, in order to ensure the necessary balance between constituent elements, and the four new Working Groups will be formally established at the plenary meeting on 12/13 September.

Working Group No VII on external action

Chairman : Vice-Chairman Dehaene

MANDATE

1. How should the interests of the Union be defined and formulated?
2. How should the consistency of the Union's activities be ensured, coordinating all the instruments available to it (including development aid, humanitarian action, financial assistance, trade policy, etc.)?
3. What can be done to ensure that the decision-making process allows the Union to act rapidly and effectively on the international stage? How far could the Community method be extended to other fields of action and how could it be made more effective? What easing of the rule of unanimity might be considered?
4. What lessons may be drawn from the experience gained from the creation of the post of High Representative for the CFSP? What scope for initiative may be assigned to him? How can it be ensured that he has the necessary resources, including financial resources, at his disposal?
5. What amendments to arrangements for the external representation of the Union would increase the Union's influence at international level? How could better synergy be achieved between the diplomatic activity of the Union and of the Member States?

Working Group No VIII on defence

Chairman: Mr Michel Barnier

MANDATE

1. Apart from the Petersberg tasks, what defence remit could be envisaged for the Union?
 2. Since the Union has decided that it must have a genuine operational capability, including a military capability, what can be done to ensure that the Member States have the military capabilities needed to guarantee the credibility of the Union's defence policy? Should we seek inspiration from monetary union, and establish admission criteria and a pact to be complied with thereafter?
 3. Should provision be made for extending enhanced cooperation to defence matters?
 4. What can be done to ensure that decisions can be taken quickly during a crisis management operation?
 3. What can be done to ensure coherent planning of the Union's crisis management operations?
 4. What methods should be used to ensure greater efficiency and economies of scale in arms procurement, research and development? Should the creation of a European Arms Agency be envisaged?
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**Working Group No IX on the simplification of legislative procedures
and instruments**

Chairman: Vice-Chairman Amato

MANDATE

1. How can the number of legislative procedures laid down by the Treaty be reduced? Could some procedures be simplified?
In particular:
 - by doing away with the cooperation procedure?
 - by applying the codecision procedure in all legislative matters?
 - by extending qualified-majority voting to all legal bases where codecision is provided for?
 - for the codecision procedure, by simplifying procedures for meetings of the Conciliation Committee? What other streamlining might be possible?
 - how could the budgetary procedure be simplified? In particular, is it necessary to continue to differentiate between the different categories of expenditure?
 2. How could the number of legal instruments referred to in the Treaties be reduced? Could they be given names which indicate their effect more clearly?
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Working Group No X on the area of freedom, security and justice

Chairman: Mr John Bruton

MANDATE

1. What improvements would have to be made to the Treaties in order to promote genuine, full and comprehensive implementation of an area of freedom, security and justice?
2. In particular, what improvements would have to be made to instruments and procedures?
3. What could be done, for example, to identify more clearly those criminal law issues which require action at Union level? How could judicial cooperation in criminal matters be stepped up?
4. What adjustments could be made to the wording of the Treaty provisions defining Community competence, particularly for immigration and asylum matters?
