

CONV 225/02

NOTE

from :	Praesidium
to :	Convention
Subject :	Convention session on 12 and 13 September 2002 – Simplification of instruments and procedures

1. As background to this debate, Convention members are invited to consult CONV 162/02 on the instruments available to the Union and the Community for the exercise of their competences, and the procedures for adopting such instruments. This document, which is an expanded version of CONV 50/02 circulated for the session on 23 and 24 May, takes account of the Convention's discussions at that session. It aims to identify the questions and avenues which the Convention could explore at a later date.
2. The specific issues relating to legislative and budgetary procedures are discussed in greater detail in CONV 216/02.
3. The picture emerging from these two documents reveals a degree of complexity. Moreover, the views expressed by Convention members at the session on 23 and 24 May demonstrated the need for simplification (and/or clearer classification) both of the instruments and of the procedures for adopting them, which has prompted the Praesidium to propose discussing these questions further at the Convention session on 12 and 13 September.

4. Against this backdrop, Convention members are asked to consider the following questions:

- (i) How can the number of instruments available to the Union for the exercise of its competences be reduced and how can their legal effects be clarified?
- (ii) Is it necessary to establish a clear classification of legal instruments based on their hierarchical position (hierarchy of legislation)?
- (iii) How can the existing legislative procedures best be streamlined? How can their number be reduced?
- (iv) Can certain procedures be simplified? Codecision? The budgetary procedure?

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