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COVER NOTE

from Secretariat
to The Convention

Subject : **Contribution by Mr Alain Lamassoure, Mr Elmar Brok, members of the Convention, Mr Joachim Wuermeling, alternate member of the Convention:**
- "Testimonies of national Parliaments in the Constitution's preamble?
A somewhat unconventional proposal "

The Secretary General of the Convention has received the attached contribution from
Mr Alain Lamassoure, Mr Elmar Brok, members of the Convention, Joachim Wuermeling, alternate
member of the Convention

Joachim Wuermeling

Alain Lamassoure

Elmar Brok

Testimonies of national Parliaments in the Constitution's preamble ?

A somewhat unconventional proposal

The preamble of the Constitutional Treaty will contain fundamental values and convictions of the Union that are all common to us. This is important since the Constitution is not supposed to be a compilation of technocratic rules but the expression of a political vision.

Based on these common foundations, every Member State has its own particular idea of the European Union, depending on its respective culture and history. These specific perspectives do not lead to contradictions, but rather enrich our common image of the future of Europe. However, these various views cannot specifically be expressed in the Constitutional Treaty, because the text has to be adopted unanimously.

But, of course, every Member State wants to express its specific ideas about Europe. This is partly already been done in the national Constitutions.

We propose to allow every Member State to formulate an own recital for the preamble where its specific idea about Europe can be expressed. It would be something like a European testimony of the peoples.

For Example:

- The French people, bearing in mind the principles of freedom, equality and solidarity, willing to unite the nation with Europe's other nations.
- The German people, wishing to be surrounded by friends and partners in the center of Europe and to be a part of a united Europe based on the variety of cultures and regions.
- The Estonian people ...
- The Polish people ...

We believe that mirroring such confessions in the Constitution`s text could support the citizens` identification with the Constitution.

It would also result, after having the common mission formulated in the preamble`s first part, in a compilation of European visions of a highly symbolical character. This would be a strong expression of the variety of the European nations which could be attractive especially for the smaller Member States who would find themselves back there. The citizens would also learn about the other peoples' perspectives. As a consequence, the mutual understanding would be considerably supported. Even though the testimonies would have no legal implications, they could nevertheless strengthen the European commitment.
