

CONV 177/02

CONTRIB 59

**NOTE DE TRANSMISSION**

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du: Secrétariat

à la: Convention

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**Objet: Contribution présentée par certains membres de la Convention**

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Le Secrétaire général de la Convention a reçu la contribution figurant en annexe de:

Irena BELOHORSKA, Elmar BROK, Andrew DUFF, Olivier DUHAMEL, Peter GLOTZ, Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN, Kimmo KILJUNEN, Rene van der LINDEN, Hans van MIERLO<sup>1</sup>, Proinsias de ROSSA, Frans TIMMERMANS, Pal VASTAGH, Paraskevas AVGERINOS, Lamberto DINI, Ben FAYOT, Klaus HÄNSCH, Alain LAMASSOURE, Luis MARINHO, Jacques SANTER, Jozsef SZAJER, Edmund WITTBRODT, Peter BALAZS, Karel de GUCHT, Pavol HAMZIK, Jan KAVAN, Anne van LANCKER, Jürgen MEYER, Jozef OLEKSY, Erwin TEUFEL, Meglena KUNEVA, membres de la Convention, et  
Peter ALTMAIER, Elena PACIOTTI, Valdo SPINI, Pervenche BERÈS, Piia-Noora KAUPPI, Marie NAGY, Gunter PLEUGER, Maria BERGER, Reinhard RACK, Wolfgang SENFF, Joachim WUERMELING, membres suppléants de la Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> Le représentant du gouvernement des Pays-Bas a ajouté que l'élection directe du président de la Commission par les citoyens européens ne saurait être exclue dans un stade ultérieur. Il estime qu'au stade actuel l'élection par le Parlement européen est une première étape importante.

**Contribution to the Convention on the Future of the European Union**

After three months of intensive discussion in the Convention, the general debate is nearing its end. We agree with the many speakers who have demanded that we should strive for further integration in areas which Europe can only together tackle effectively. But when discussing possible further competencies for the Union we have to simultaneously address the question of how the European institutions will carry out these tasks.

We should not address the different aspects of the necessary reform of the European Union in a piecemeal approach. We have to weigh the impact of each aspect of reform on the whole institutional architecture. A wider debate on institutional reform has already begun, with President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Prime Minister José María Aznar having made an interesting proposal to elect a President of the European Council. It is time to carry this debate into the Convention, where it belongs.

We need to increase the effectiveness and democratic legitimacy of the European institutions. In order to achieve this goal we have to make the work of the Council and of the European Council more effective (i.a., by extending qualified majority-voting), increase the role of the European Parliament (i.a., by generally using the co-decision procedure), and strengthen the executive role and increase the democratic legitimacy of the European Commission.

In order to achieve the latter, we propose that the President of the European Commission should be elected by the European Parliament. Our aim is to strengthen the political accountability of the European Commission. We strongly believe that the President of the Commission needs to have a stronger democratic legitimacy.

The different aspects of this proposal need to be carefully thought through and have to be seen in relation to each other. Our goal should be to create stronger, more democratic, and more effective European institutions within a balanced architectural system. We believe that it is urgent that the Convention starts debating these issues.