

CONV 845/03

CONTRIB 382

NOTE

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| du: | Secrétariat |
| à : | la Convention |
| Objet: | Contribution présentée par M. Esko Helle, membre suppléant de la Convention: - "Les travaux de la Convention touchent à leur terme" |

Le Secrétaire général de la Convention a reçu la contribution figurant en annexe de M. Esko Helle, membre suppléant de la Convention.

THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION COMES TO AN END

1. The task of the Convention is to draft a new treaty for the European Union. Its term comes to an end on 10 July 2003.
2. Therefore the Presidium of the Convention cannot have a right of representation in the Intergovernmental Conference.
3. Many have been concerned about the ability of the national parliaments to influence the work of the Intergovernmental Conference. Some have therefore suggested that national parliaments could in some form continue the work they have undertaken as a component of the Convention.
4. Naturally the representatives of national parliaments can assemble informally during the IGC. This kind of a meeting cannot however be representative in its nature nor can it agree on anything on behalf of the national parliaments.

THE TASK OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

5. The role of national parliaments in the IGC is to follow the work of their respective Governments and advise them when necessary.
6. In Finland the Government is obliged to keep the parliament informed on all EU affairs including the IGC. The parliament considers the Government's positions and either approves them or changes them in the way it wishes.
7. Parliaments of all the other member states do not have the same powers as the Finnish parliament to monitor the handling of EU affairs and direct the Government.
8. In those circumstances parliaments wishing to have more power to act need to change their constitutional law. This is an internal affair of every state.
9. The Union shall not, even in a Constitutional treaty, define how Union affairs are treated in a member state.