

CONV 818/03

CONTRIB 371

BEGELEIDENDE NOTA

van: het secretariaat

aan: de Conventie

Betreft: Bijdrage van de heer Luís Queiró, plaatsvervangend lid van de Conventie
"Verklaring over het ontwerp van Constitutioneel Verdrag"

De secretaris-generaal van de Conventie heeft van de heer Luís Queiró, plaatsvervangend lid van de Conventie, de bijdrage ontvangen die in bijlage dezes staat.

Declaration on the Draft Constitutional Treaty

I understand the text of our convention as a point of departure/a beginning and not an end. The debate and the decision of governments of Member States follow.

Like all compromise texts, the Convention proposal has aspects which please and others less so – Valéry Giscard d'Estaing recognises this.

Within this perspective I regret that it was not possible to introduce in the preamble the reference to the Judaic-Christian heritage of Europe which is the most important historic pillar of our civilisation.

I regret that the scrupulous rotation of Member States in the Presidency of the European Council was called into question despite the introduction of a compromise solution which, like all compromise solutions remains apart from our conviction.

I do not agree either with the proposal on the composition of the Commission which, I think, will weaken it before the citizens, especially from the Member States which are excluded.

I regret also that the option of a considerable extension of decisions taken by qualified majority, as the President of the Convention affirmed, could represent a break of the terms of accession contracts established by candidate countries.

Finally, the reform on the irreplaceable role of national parliaments in the monitoring and appraising European decisions seems to me to lack courage, especially within the perspective of respect for the principle of subsidiarity given their proximity to their citizens.

I recognise nevertheless - and in this respect I congratulate the President – that the final text has despite several positive aspects and balances which give body to the necessary proposals for reform to be introduced in the current complex treaties.

First the IGC, then the national parliaments, and principally the citizens of the Member States will find the elements for reflection on which they will decide in all sovereignty.

Thus, in a shared manner affairs must continue to function within our European Union of democratic states free and sovereign.

Luís Queiró
ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONVENTION

Brussels, 13 June 2003