

**CONFERENCE
OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE GOVERNMENTS
OF THE MEMBER STATES**

**Brussels, 11 December 2003
(OR. fr)**

**CIG 60/03
ADD 2**

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ADDENDUM 2 TO THE PRESIDENCY NOTE

from : Presidency

dated : 11 December 2003

to : Delegations

Subject : ***IGC 2003***

– ***Intergovernmental Conference (12–13 December 2003)***

ADDENDUM 2

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Delegations will find attached Addendum 2 to the Presidency note contained in document CIG 60/03.

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1. As stated in CIG 60/03, the Presidency submits to delegations the following ways forward on the more sensitive political issues which it intends should constitute the focus of discussions at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference on 12-13 December.

Preamble

2. The preamble, and in particular the question of whether or not to include a reference to Europe's Christian roots, was the subject of detailed discussion at the Naples ministerial meeting. While some delegations stressed the importance of a reference to Christian values in the preamble, others felt that the text proposed by the Convention made an even-handed response to the various concerns that had been raised. They therefore propose that it remain unchanged.

Composition of the Commission

3. It is generally acknowledged by all delegations that the Commission has both to satisfy the requirement for legitimacy and to function effectively.

4. A number of Member States, in particular the new ones, consider that, immediately following the most recent and extensive round of enlargement, the composition of the Commission should reflect the greater diversity of the enlarged European Union. This view, which reflects public opinion, leads these Member States to support the idea that there should be one national from each Member State in the Commission. Taking this into account, the Presidency considers that it is desirable that the composition of the Commission should respond adequately to the concerns of these delegations, while avoiding the risk that these arrangements might in the long run undermine another key requirement, for a Commission which functions effectively. The Presidency is therefore of the view that a clause could be envisaged which would provide for a reduced Commission with effect from a given date. Once there was agreement on this principle, the details of how it would operate would be decided in the light of the experience acquired by the enlarged Union as regards the functioning of the new Commission.

Qualified Majority Voting

5. The Presidency notes that a very large number of delegations continue to support the Convention text on the definition of Qualified Majority Voting, in particular because it meets the overall objective of decision-making procedures which are simple, efficient and transparent. Nevertheless the Presidency is aware that for a few delegations, the Convention proposal is not acceptable as it currently stands. The Presidency is continuing to reflect on how best to respond to the specific concerns expressed by some delegations, without losing the advantages of the Convention proposal and taking into account also the balance of the overall institutional framework.
6. On the issue of the scope of Qualified Majority Voting, a number of delegations support a further extension into other areas. At the same time, there are others who consider that, in a number of sensitive areas, unanimity should be maintained. Taking into account these different views, the Presidency is of the opinion that the Convention text in general represents a balanced compromise. However the overall issue of the scope of QMV will have to be seen in the context of the final agreement covering all the outstanding issues.

European Parliament

7. The Presidency has taken note of the concerns expressed by a number of delegations that the minimum threshold of four seats in the European Parliament creates problems of democratic legitimacy for the smallest Member States. The Presidency does not rule out the possibility of a limited increase in this threshold in order to meet these concerns, whilst maintaining the overall approach on the composition of the European Parliament.
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