

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

2 December 2003

B5-0513/2003 }
B5-0527/2003 }
B5-0530/2003 }
B5-0531/2003 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Hans-Gert Poettering, Iñigo Méndez de Vigo and Elmar Brok on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Enrique Barón Crespo, Klaus Hänsch, Giorgio Napolitano and Richard Corbett on behalf of the PSE Group
- Andrew Nicholas Duff on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Johannes Voggenhuber, Monica Frassoni and Sir Neil MacCormick on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- ELDR (B5-0513/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0527/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0530/2003),
- PSE (B5-0531/2003),

on the progress report on the Intergovernmental Conference

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PE 338.639}
PE 339.824}
PE 339.827}
PE 339.828} RC1

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European Parliament resolution on the progress report on the Intergovernmental Conference

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe of 18 July 2003, prepared by the European Convention,
 - having regard to its resolution of 24 September 2003 on the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and the European Parliament's opinion on the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC),
 - having regard to its resolution of 20 November 2003 on the financial provisions in the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe,
 - having regard to the Italian Presidency proposals (CIG 52/1/03),
 - having regard to Rule 37 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. recalling that the Convention was composed of representatives of parliaments, European institutions and governments, which together have achieved with difficulty compromises on many fine points of balance in the constitutional structure, and that substantial changes by the governments acting alone would be unacceptable,
- B. whereas the text of the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe should remain the basis for the final and overall IGC agreement,
- C. whereas certain sectorial Council formations are bringing forward their own suggestions, thereby undermining the basis for stable negotiations,
1. Calls on the Heads of State and Government to continue their efforts and overcome their differences in order to arrive at a balanced and positive result on 13 December 2003;
 2. Expresses its concern at the calling into question by certain Member States of the Convention's proposals for institutional reform; recalls that any solution found to the reform of the three institutions must respect the balance between representation and efficiency;
 3. Recalls its support for the proposals in the draft Constitution regarding the definition of 'qualified majority'; perceives nonetheless a margin for compromise on the proposed figures provided that such a compromise respects the principle of the double majority and lowering of the threshold fixed at Nice;
 4. Welcomes the Italian Presidency's proposal to extend qualified-majority voting within the CFSP in order to achieve a balanced overall outcome on decision-making procedures;
 5. Insists that there be no retreat from the Convention proposals for a measured extension of qualified-majority voting; stresses the importance of the Convention text on simplified procedures to move from unanimity to qualified-majority voting or from a special legislative

procedure to the ordinary legislative procedure (general bridging clause);

6. Deplores the apparent decision to do away with the Legislative Council, which was intended to effect a clearer separation between the Council's law-making and executive functions, and to guarantee full transparency of the legislative process, and hopes that at least the option of introducing the Legislative Council at a later stage will be maintained;
7. Warns the IGC not to call into question the general balance achieved in the Convention on the financial and budgetary provisions; rejects any attempt to weaken Parliament's current budgetary rights as this would be a major attack on Parliament's core principles;
8. Reiterates its support for the proposals in the draft Constitution concerning the composition of the Commission; considers there to be a danger that appointing one Commissioner per Member State would impart an intergovernmental character to it;
9. Calls on the IGC to uphold the compromise reached in the Convention whereby the Union's Foreign Minister, as a full Vice-President of the European Commission, presides over a joint administration comprising Commission, Council and national officials within the Commission and chairs the Foreign Affairs Council;
10. Believes that a proposal to limit the remit of the public prosecutor to the fight against fraud affecting the Union's financial interests must be accompanied by the application of the ordinary legislative procedure;
11. Proposes that amendments to Part III of the Constitution should be agreed, where competences are not affected, by a lighter procedure;
12. Firmly backs the intention to convene a Euratom Treaty Revision Conference in order to repeal the obsolete and outdated provisions of the Treaty, notably concerning the promotion of nuclear energy and the lack of democratic decision-making procedures;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Italian Presidency, the Council, the Commission, the national parliaments and the Intergovernmental Conference.