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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Iñigo Méndez de Vigo and Elmar Brok

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the Intergovernmental Conference

European Parliament resolution 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. whereas the Italian Presidency proposals presented a basis for the discussions at the Naples Ministerial Conclave,
- B. whereas the text of the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe remains 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. 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 is a major attack on Parliament's core principles;
 2. Encourages the Italian Presidency to put forward an amendment referring to Europe's Christian heritage in the preamble;
 3. Attaches great importance to the Convention's proposal on the composition of the European Commission;
 4. Considers that the double majority rule improves decision-making in an enlarged European Union; calls therefore on the IGC to reject the growing attempts to agree on a so-called 'rendezvous' clause postponing the essential institutional reforms until 2009 or even later;
 5. Calls on the IGC to strengthen the Council's capability to act and efficiency, without considering possible blocking minorities of weighted votes;
 6. Is concerned by the fact that a large majority of Member States are opposed to the creation

of a Legislative Council; recommends nevertheless that a legal basis be established to ensure that this is subsequently by means of a decision of the European Council;

7. Supports the new proposal to establish permanent structured cooperation on the common security and defence policy within the Union framework;
8. 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;
9. 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;
10. Welcomes the proposal to strengthen the provision on accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights and supports the proposal to introduce qualified-majority voting in Council in this provision;
11. 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; insists, in connection with the proposal on judicial cooperation in civil law, that its scope should not be limited to the functioning of the internal market;
12. Supports the Italian Presidency's proposal that legal acts adopted by the European Council which are intended to produce legal effects vis-à-vis third parties should be subject to judicial control by the Court of Justice;
13. 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);
14. Stresses the importance of the Italian Presidency's proposal that the decision to amend the Constitution provisions on internal policies (Title III of Part III) should be based on a decision of the European Council by qualified majority after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament and approval by all Member States - without conferring new competences on the Union;
15. Recommends, in view of the reduced trust in the Stability and Growth Pact following the latest ECOFIN discussions, that non-inflationary economic growth should be explicitly mentioned as a Union objective in the Constitution's text ;
16. Welcomes the agreement to situate the article on the symbols of the Union in Part I of the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe;
17. Calls on the Heads of State and Government to set an example on European constitutional patriotism during the final IGC negotiations;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the IGC, the Council, the Commission

and the parliaments of the Member States and of the acceding and candidate countries.