

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

16 June 2003

12/2003

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by José Ribeiro e Castro, Ole Krarup, Per Gahrton, Martin Callanan and Patricia McKenna

on the next IGC and the need to respect democracy in the European Union

Deadline: 16 September 2003

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Declaration 23, annexed to the Treaty of Nice, ‘Declaration on the future of the Union’, unanimously laid down that *‘a new Conference of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States will be convened in 2004 (...) with a view to making corresponding changes to the Treaties’*,
- B. given the unparalleled importance of an enlargement which involves ten more Member States, whose membership will take effect only after May 2004,
- C. whereas since March referenda have already been held in Malta, Slovenia, Hungary, Lithuania and Slovakia, and other referenda will be held in Poland and the Czech Republic in June and in Estonia and Latvia in September, all of these based upon the Treaties as last reformed (i.e. the Treaty of Nice),
- D. having regard to the controversy that has grown as the Convention comes to a close and its final proposals become known,
- E. whereas it would be appropriate for the Convention’s final proposals to be subjected to wide-ranging and sustained democratic debate in all the nations of the enlarged EU, and for the citizens of the Member States freely to voice their opinions thereof, still in draft form, at the June 2004 European elections,
- F. whereas bringing the IGC forward damages the credibility of the accession referenda and also the free, democratic and open nature of the 2004 European elections,
 1. States that the guarantees regarding the calendar adopted in the Treaty of Nice must not be reduced, ignored and compromised, and that the Intergovernmental Conference should under no circumstances be convened until the new Member States have complete membership;
 2. Believes that bringing the IGC forward would constitute a violation of Declaration 23, a gesture of disloyalty towards the new Member States and a step profoundly damaging to democracy in Europe;
 3. Asks for the Convention’s final proposals to be put to a thoroughgoing and proper democratic debate before the 2004 European elections and calls on the Heads of State and Government to convene the IGC only after the elections, in order to take into account the outcome of the popular vote;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Parliaments of the Member States.