

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET
Alm. del - bilag 1313 (offentligt)

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og deres stedfortrædere

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Kontor
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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges formandskabets
note af 16. september 2003 om organiseringen af den kommende regerings-
konference.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen

ORGANISATION OF THE FORTHCOMING INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE (IGC)

Organisation of work

1. In accordance with the conclusions of the Thessaloniki European Council, the IGC will take place at political level. It will be conducted by the Heads of State or Government. The meetings of the Heads of State or Government will, as a rule, be held at meetings of the European Council.
2. The Heads of State or Government will be assisted by members of the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC). Ministerial meetings will take place in the margins of each monthly meeting of the GAERC and at meetings dedicated solely to IGC matters.
3. With the agreement of the participants, the Presidency of the IGC will do everything necessary to ensure that ministerial-level discussions are properly prepared. The Presidency will accordingly set up a network of contact points and, should the need arise, may propose holding a number of preparatory meetings to discuss clearly defined topics on the basis of a precise mandate.
4. The planned dates of IGC meetings are given in the indicative timetable attached, together with the topics that the Presidency is proposing be discussed at each. Any delegation may ask for additional questions to be raised during the IGC. The IGC will consider all the issues which have been referred to it in the light of the Thessaloniki conclusions on the draft Convention, both those concerning its content and those concerning the recommended timetable of work.
5. The Presidency will do everything necessary to safeguard quality and legal certainty. The draft drawn up by the Convention, together with the Protocols, Accession Treaties and other texts of primary law not considered by the Convention, will undergo legal verification. The IGC Secretariat has begun preparatory work and will receive assistance on the Protocols and Accession Treaties from the Commission. The preparatory work will be submitted to a group of legal experts from the 25 participant States, which will be chaired by the IGC Secretariat.

Participation

6. The acceding States will participate fully in the Intergovernmental Conference on an equal footing with current Member States.
7. The Commission representative will participate in all Conference meetings.
8. The European Parliament will be closely associated and involved in the work of the Conference. Two European Parliament representatives will attend ministerial-level Conference meetings as observers. Detailed arrangements for the Parliament's involvement in the meetings of the Heads of State or Government will be determined by the latter at the IGC inaugural meeting.
9. The candidate States – Bulgaria and Romania, with which negotiations are under way, and Turkey – will take part in Conference meetings as observers.

Practical arrangements

10. The General Secretariat of the Council will provide secretarial support for the Conference.
11. All Conference documents will be in the public domain and accessible on the internet.
12. The language arrangements for the Conference (meetings of Heads of State or Government and ministerial meetings) will be those which apply at European Council meetings. As far as translation is concerned, the customary language arrangements will apply; the texts of the Treaty submitted to the Heads of State or Government and to ministerial meetings will be translated into all the participants' languages, including those of the acceding States; reports and other documents submitted to the Conference will be translated into the official languages of the European Union. Bulgarian, Romanian and Turkish versions of the Treaty will be drawn up when the Conference has completed its work.

IGC – INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Saturday 4 October 2003 – morning (Rome)	Heads of State or Government (opening)	- Final procedural questions - General political debate
Saturday 4 October 2003 – afternoon (Rome)	Ministers	- Legislative Council - Rotating Council Presidency (questionnaires) - Minister for Foreign Affairs
Tuesday 14 October 2003 – morning (Luxembourg)	Ministers (on the occasion of the GAERC meeting)	<i>Preparation for the meeting of Heads of State or Government:</i> - Legislative Council - Rotating Council Presidency - Minister for Foreign Affairs - Defence
Thursday 16 and Friday 17 October 2003 (Brussels)	Heads of State or Government	- Legislative Council - Rotating Council Presidency (political guidelines) - Minister for Foreign Affairs - Defence
Monday 27 (afternoon) and Tuesday 28 October 2003 (Brussels)	Ministers	- Composition of the Commission - Qualified majority: definition and scope - Minister for Foreign Affairs - Defence - Other questions
Tuesday 18 November 2003 – morning (Brussels)	Ministers (on the occasion of the GAERC meeting)	- Qualified majority: definition and scope - Minister for Foreign Affairs - Part IV (in particular ratification procedure) - Other questions
Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November (+ poss. 30 November) 2003 (Rome)	Ministerial conclave	<i>Preparation of the overall package ahead of the meeting of Heads of State or Government</i>
Tuesday 9 December 2003 – morning (Brussels)	Ministers (on the occasion of the GAERC meeting)	<i>Preparation of the overall package ahead of the meeting of Heads of State or Government</i>
Friday 12 and Saturday 13 December 2003 (Brussels)	Heads of State or Government	<i>Discussion of the overall package</i>

Ministers attending the GAERC meeting will have the opportunity to discuss certain IGC-related issues over dinner the previous evening.