

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET

Alm. del - bilag 1643 (offentligt)

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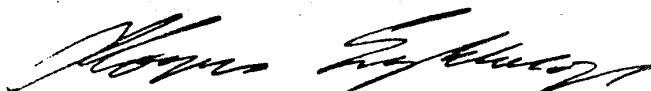
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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges non-paper om
Europa's fremtid modtaget d.d. fra det belgiske EU-formandskab.



Informal translation

NON-PAPER

THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Some elements and ideas to be presented and discussed at the Gymnich in Gervat 8-9 september 2001.

In order to prepare the Declaration of Laken, and taking into account the results of the tour of Capitals by Minister Michel in July, the Presidency has started its own reflection. So far it has been working on the following key-elements: political analysis/definition and development of themes/procedural questions. First reactions would be welcomed on those elements.

Political analysis.

- "A political appreciation" of the strengths and weaknesses of the European model and of the reasons for the distance-gap between Europe and its citizens.

- How to address the problems and challenges facing the people of Europe, before facing the problems of the Institutions.

- How to situate these problems and challenges in their global context and try to anticipate on them.

Definition/Development of themes

- This exercise of identification of the challenges should help to better assess the nature and extent of reforms the EU will eventually need. The adaptation of the Treaties has to be prepared in the same spirit.

- How to focus on the concrete problems facing European citizens and ask the right questions.

- How to develop around the themes of the Nice declaration, so that we can describe and define them in a way that is politically useful and technically feasible, in particular with regard to simplification of Treaties and delimitation of powers.

- The different elements of the Declaration should be developed and presented in such a way that it becomes possible to express a coherent project, that looks beyond the Euro and beyond enlargement, and that offers a framework and a perspective for the work of the Convention in the years 2002 and 2003.

- The text of the Declaration should not try to give premature answers to questions.

- In order to be credible, the results of the work of the Convention and of the more structured debate, must be taken into account in the further process leading to the IGC.

The procedure

- An innovative and credible way to prepare the IGC has to be found.
- The Convention model seems to rally the most support. It can easily be combined with the idea of a Civil Forum and of a strong President/Praesidium.
- The organisation of the Convention and the description of its outcome (the final product), should contain an element of flexibility and differentiation, according to the subject-matter
- Candidate countries should be given a place within the Convention, according to modalities to be determined.
- The Convention should start its work before the end of the Spanish Presidency. Its activities should last more or less 12 months.

Suggested course of action in the coming months

- On the basis of the discussion in Genval, the Presidency prepares a synthesis, to be presented at the GAC-luncheon of 8/8 october, with a view to forward the contribution of the Ministers of Foreign/European Affairs to the informal meeting of Heads of Government and State in Gent (19 october).
- After the discussion in Gent, the Presidency will intensify informal contacts with Member States and Institutions.
- This will help prepare the ground for the tour of Capitals of Prime Minister Verhofstadt, who will eventually discuss the text when meeting with his colleagues.