

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET

Alm. del - bilag 1146 (offentligt)

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg fremsendes vedlagt note (11047/03) fra det italienske formandskab vedrørende forslag til ændring af de traktater, som Unionen bygger på, jf. EU-traktatens artikel 48. Formandskabet foreslår, at der i overensstemmelse med konklusionerne fra Det Europæiske Råd i Thessaloniki indkaldes til en konference mellem repræsentanterne for medlemsstaternes regeringer.

I henhold til EU-traktatens artikel 48 træffer Rådet afgørelse om indkaldelse af en sådan regeringskonference efter høring af Europa-Parlamentet, Kommissionen og Den Europæiske Centralbank.

Formelle breve fra formandskabet til Europa-Parlamentet, Kommissionen og Den Europæiske Centralbank med henblik på at konsultere de tre institutioner om indkaldelsen af regeringskonferencen udsendes i skriftlig procedure i Rådet (Generelle Anliggender og Eksterne Forbindelser). Regeringen agter at tilslutte sig fremsendelsen af brevene fra formandskabet til de tre institutioner som led i gennemførelse af proceduren for indkaldelse af regeringskonferencen.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 1 July 2003 (02.07)
(OR. it)**

11047/03

POLGEN 52

TRANSLATION OF LETTER

from : Mr Umberto VATTANI, Permanent Representative of Italy
dated : 1 July 2003
to : Mr Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General/High Representative
Subject : *Amendment of the Treaties on which the Union is founded*

Sir,

The Italian Government has instructed me to submit to the Council, in accordance with Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union, a proposal for the amendment of the Treaties on which the Union is founded. The proposal is annexed to this letter.

(Complimentary close)

(s.) Umberto VATTANI
Permanent Representative

Proposal for the amendment of the Treaties on which the Union is founded

Under Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union, it is proposed that a Conference of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States be convened, in accordance with the conclusions of the Thessaloniki European Council meeting.

In Thessaloniki the European Council welcomed the draft Constitutional Treaty presented by the Chairman of the Convention, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and considered that it marked a historic step in the direction of furthering the objectives of European integration, by:

- bringing our Union closer to its citizens;
- strengthening our Union's democratic character;
- facilitating our Union's capacity to make decisions, especially after its enlargement;
- enhancing our Union's ability to act as a coherent and unified force in the international system;
- effectively dealing with the challenges that globalisation and interdependence create.

The text of the draft Constitutional Treaty is a good basis for initiating the Intergovernmental Conference. The Conference should complete its work and approve the Constitutional Treaty as soon as possible and in time for it to become known to Europe's citizens before the June 2004 elections for the European Parliament. The acceding States will participate fully in the Intergovernmental Conference on an equal footing with the current Member States.

The Constitutional Treaty will be signed by the Member States of the enlarged Union as soon as possible after 1 May 2004.

The Intergovernmental Conference will be conducted by the Heads of State or Government, assisted by the members of the General Affairs and External Relations Council. The representative of the Commission will participate in the Conference. The General Secretariat of the Council will provide the secretariat support for the Conference. The European Parliament will be closely associated with and involved in the work of the Conference.

The three candidate countries – Bulgaria and Romania, with which accession negotiations are under way, and Turkey – will take part in all meetings of the Conference as observers.
