

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET

Alm. del - bilag 1372 (offentligt)

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges regeringens svar
på formandskabets spørgeskema til medlemsstaterne forud for udenrigsmini-
strenes drøftelser den 4. oktober 2003 under regeringskonferencen.

P. H. Orskov

REPLIES OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE COUNCIL

General remarks

The following Danish replies to the questionnaire on the legislative function/the formations of the Council/The Presidency of the Council of Ministers should be regarded as preliminary and subject to further specification in the course of the IGC discussions.

I. The Legislative Function

1. Denmark holds the position that each Council formation should perform the legislative function within its area of work. Denmark is sceptical towards a separate legislative Council.
2. Denmark supports the decision in Seville to open Council debates on acts adopted in accordance with the procedure for codecision with the European Parliament to the public. It is important for Denmark that this principle of openness in the work of the Council is extended to all laws and framework laws in all Council formations.

II. The Formations of the Council

3. Denmark supports the decision in Seville limiting the list of Council formations. Denmark is flexible with regard to the decision-making procedure of the European Council on the list of Council formations.

III. The Presidency of the Council of Ministers

4. Denmark supports the principle of full and equal rotation among Member States with respect to the Council Presidency. The presidency of the Foreign Affairs Council must be seen in the light of the tasks of the EU Foreign Minister, including the role of the EU Foreign Minister in the Commission.
5. Denmark is open towards the idea of Team Presidencies. Team Presidencies would require clear measures to ensure efficient and coherent decision-making and coordination.
6. Denmark is ready to discuss various ways of organising Team Presidencies. If it is decided to opt for a Team Presidency system, principles for the composition of the Teams and for the allocation of Council formations within the Teams must be transparent and based on full and equal rotation among Member States.
7. Denmark is open towards discussing the idea of a vertical chain of command. In general, Denmark finds it preferable that the same Member State or institutional representative normally chairs a Council formation and the corresponding committees and/or working parties in order to ensure vertical co-ordination. The possibility of chairing of certain committees and/or working parties by the General Secretariat of the Council, by the Commission, or by an elected member of the committee or working party should not be ruled out.
8. See question 7.
9. See question 7.
10. It is important to achieve greater coherence and coordination in the Council's proceedings. Denmark is open to discuss modalities of an informal structure for coordination among the presidents of the various institutions.
11. It is important to achieve the above-mentioned results during the Intergovernmental Conference, but details can be sorted out at a later stage.