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Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

Bilag

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges brev fra den irske udenrigsminister vedrørende regeringskonferencen.

8 January 2004

Dear

The European Council at its meeting last month requested the Irish Presidency to make an assessment, on the basis of consultations, of the prospects for progress in the Intergovernmental Conference and to report to it in March.

In pursuit of this mandate, the Taoiseach and I plan to engage in consultation with partners. Initial bilateral contacts are already under way. We look forward to seeing colleagues over the coming period, in Dublin or elsewhere. It is important that we benefit from the fullest possible range of views.

In addition to bilateral contact, I would like to have an initial informal discussion with colleagues over lunch at the GAERC on 26 January.

My officials likewise are, of course, always available for consultation with their counterparts.

There remain some outstanding technical legal issues connected with the completion of a draft text, and it will shortly be confirmed to your experts how we plan to take this forward.

I want to assure you that the Presidency will make every determined effort to advance the work of the IGC as rapidly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Brian Cowen TD
Minister for Foreign Affairs