

THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF STUDENTS II ASSEMBLY IN ROME, JULY 3-6 2003

WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

The Delegation of the University of Tampere,

[Mr Seppo Lattu, Ms Kirsi Pekkala, Mr Jarmo Sunnari and Mr Markus Viljasalo]

having studied the Praesidium's Draft text of Part I, Title IV of the Constitution

(CONV 724/03, CONV 770/03, CONV 797/03),

Recognizes that the future of the Union lies in the Community Method: successful cooperation between 25 sovereign states will not be possible without strong and independent institutions, namely the Commission and the European Parliament, and without further pooling of sovereignty.

Therefore, the Finnish delegation

1. Suggests that *the European Council* should ***not be considered a separate institution***. It ought to be a part of the Council of the European Union that would incorporate the Council of Ministers and would meet in different formations at different levels, representing the views of the governments of the Member States.
2. Wishes that *the European Council* ***define the general political guidelines*** for the EU rather than "*its general political directions and priorities*" as proposed in art. I-20.1.
3. ***Opposes the idea of the President of the European Council*** elected for a term of two and half years, but instead insists on the significance of the rotating Presidency.
4. Suggests that *the Council of Ministers* exercise its functions "***without prejudice to the competences of the Commission*** and in cooperation with her". (art. I-22.1.)
5. Demands that *the number of commissioners* ***not be fixed***, particularly to strengthen the power of the President of the European Commission, who would, consequently, be able to choose the composition of the Commission more autonomously.
6. Proposes that *the European Parliament* ***have the right to pass a censure motion also on individual Commissioners***, which would make the scrutiny of the Commission more effective and bring more power to the Parliament.

7. Recommends that the procedure of nominating the Foreign Minister (art. I-27.1) be reversed: ***the President of the Commission shall appoint the Union's Foreign Minister*** with the agreement of the European Council.
8. Proposes ***the Foreign Minister be a full Commissioner*** and therefore responsible to the European Parliament as well. (art. I-27.3)
9. Insisting on the importance of ***strengthening the democratic legitimacy of legislative work***, suggests ***the codecision procedure be extended to all areas*** of European legislation.