

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Rome, 3-5.06.2003

Presentation of the Bulgarian group. Summary

The work of the “historic” European Convention has come to its end. The even “more historic” time begins when the planned institutional reforms of the EU are to be finally agreed upon and implemented.

The most important points from the perspective of the Bulgarian group, coming from a country- future EU member-state could be summarized as follows:

Our basic idea is that the future EU has to find the optimal way to insure its citizens’ prosperity by reinforcing the European identity.

1. The understating of the EU among its citizens has to be improved. The vital question here is how to increase the citizens’ interest in the subject and how to motivate them to participate more actively.
2. The European Charter incorporated in the Constitutional Treaty is meant to better protect the basic interests of EU-citizens and thus to contribute to the achievement of point 1. Results are, however, not granted yet.
3. The increased role of the National Parliaments in the decision-making process will also contribute to the EU-citizens involvement in the process, although their willingness to do so is still questionable.
4. The new figure of the President could have two-sided consequences for the European awareness. On one hand, he/she is going to become a symbolic figure for the EU. On the other hand, the EU member-states give up their right to “speak” on behalf of the Union during their 6 months presidency.
5. In the institutional frameworks of the Union exists no division of powers in the traditional sense. Nevertheless, the tendency towards a more equal participation of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers in the decision-making process creates the possibility for their mutual control.

6. The stronger implementation of the qualified majority principle will enable the future 27-member-European Union to function more efficiently.
7. The Institution of the Foreign Minister of the EU will give an impulse to the further development of the European Security and Defense Policy, which is vital for the future of the EU as a major player on the world stage. The question how far reaches national sovereignty is still to find its answer.