



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 19 July 2007

12004/07

POLGEN 92

COVER NOTE

from : Presidency
dated : 17 July 2007
to : Ministers of Foreign Affairs

Subject : Convening of an Intergovernmental Conference

Recalling the proposal submitted by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany on 27 June 2007 (see doc. 11222/07), which reproduces the mandate approved by the European Council of 21-23 June 2007, and following the favourable opinion delivered by the Council on 16 July 2007, the Presidency of the Council, in accordance with Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union, hereby convenes a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States for the purpose of determining by common accord the amendments to be made to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded.

The first meeting of the Conference will be held in Brussels on 23 July 2007.

I attach a short information note on the organisation of the Conference.

(Complimentary close).

(s.) Luís AMADO

17 July 2007

<p style="text-align: center;">ORGANISATION OF THE FORTHCOMING INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE (IGC)</p>
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Organisation of work

1. As agreed by the European Council at its meeting on 21-23 June, the IGC will be conducted under the overall responsibility of the Heads of State or Government. The objective is to conclude the negotiations on 18-19 October in Lisbon.
2. The Heads of State or Government will be assisted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, who will open the IGC in the margins of the 23 July General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC). Ministers will be kept informed about progress in the work of the IGC.
3. At the inaugural meeting, and in line with the conclusions of the European Council, the Presidency will circulate the draft Treaty modifying the TEU and the TEC, drawn up in strict accordance with the agreed mandate. The text of this draft will be distributed in one (legally revised) language on 23 July 2007; the translations (non legally revised) will be distributed as soon as possible. This text will be submitted for examination to the group of legal experts. Personal representatives could be consulted by the Presidency if and when necessary in order to discuss any possible issues not resolved at the meetings of legal experts.

Participation

4. A Commission representative will participate in Conference meetings at all levels.
5. The European Parliament will be closely associated with and involved in the work of the Conference. The President of the European Parliament will take part in the proceedings of the IGC meeting at the level of Heads of State or Government. Three European Parliament representatives will attend ministerial-level Conference meetings. The European Parliament will also be involved in the work of the personal representatives and the legal experts.
6. The Presidency will take the necessary measures to ensure that the candidate States are kept fully and regularly briefed throughout the Intergovernmental Conference.

Practical arrangements

7. The General Secretariat of the Council will be the secretariat of the Conference.
8. All Conference documents will be made public and accessible on the internet site of the Council.
9. The interpretation arrangements for the Conference (meetings of Heads of State or Government and ministerial meetings) will be those which apply at European Council.

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