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Meeting of heads of state and/or government on the IGC

European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Treaty of 18 July 2003 establishing a Constitution for Europe drawn up by the European Convention,
 - having regard to the Italian Presidency proposals (CIG 60/03),
 - having regard to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. recalling the general acknowledgement of the need for a deepening of European integration in the process of the enlargement of the Union,
- B. reaffirming its view that the Constitution must be signed in time for the public to be able to engage in a relevant political debate in the context of the election campaign for the European Parliament,
1. Deeply deplores the failure of the European Council to reach an overall agreement on the draft constitutional treaty;
 2. Notes once again the failure of the Intergovernmental Conference method and points to the effectiveness and efficiency of the European Convention; deplores the evident lack of focus at the IGC on the common European interest;
 3. Insists that the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, as it resulted from the Convention, must remain the basis for the final and overall IGC agreement without new points being opened;
 4. Warns that failure to resolve the issue of the enlarged Union's capability to act could result in a 'variable-speed Europe', in a return to the intergovernmental method or even in the fragmentation of the Union;
 5. Invites the Italian presidency to publish a detailed list of the agreements it claims were reached at the Brussels meeting of the IGC on 12 and 13 December 2003;
 6. Calls on the forthcoming Irish Presidency to reconvene the IGC at the level of the Foreign Ministers in January 2004 in order to agree a procedure for making progress and to consolidate all the texts approved so far at the IGC;
 7. Calls on the Irish Presidency to set a date – before 1 May 2004 – for an IGC meeting at the level of the Heads of State or Government in order to decide on the remaining issues;

8. Requests the Irish Presidency, when it appears before the European Parliament in Strasbourg in January 2004, to present its plan of action for the successful completion of the IGC;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the IGC, the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States and the accession and candidate countries.