

Conclusions of the Brussels European Council: extract concerning the Intergovernmental Conference (12 and 13 December 2003)

Caption: The Brussels European Council, held under Italian Presidency on 12 and 13 December 2003, notes that it has not yet been possible for the Intergovernmental Conference (CIG) to reach an overall agreement on a draft constitutional treaty and requests the Irish Presidency on the basis of consultations to make an assessment on the prospects for progress.

Source: Cover Note from Presidency to Delegations, Subject: Brussels European Council 12 and 13 December 2003, Presidency Conclusions. 5381/84. POLGEN 2. Brussels: Council of the European Union, 05.02.2004. 30 p.

Copyright: (c) European Union, 1995-2013

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/conclusions_of_the_brussels_european_council_extract_concerning_the_intergovernmental_conference_12_and_13_december_2003-en-036e4563-cce2-4384-9e35-102e1104d764.html

Publication date: 19/12/2013

Brussels European Council (12 and 13 December 2003) Presidency Conclusions

1. The European Council met in Brussels on 12/13 December 2003. The meeting was preceded by an exposé by the President of the European Parliament, Mr Pat Cox, followed by an exchange of views concerning the main items on the agenda.

I. Intergovernmental Conference

2. The European Council noted that it was not possible for the Intergovernmental Conference to reach overall agreement on a draft constitutional treaty at this stage. The Irish Presidency is requested on the basis of consultations to make an assessment of the prospects for progress and to report to the European Council in March.

[See the annexed Declaration by the President, page 30]

[...]

Annex Declaration by the President

- In conducting the Intergovernmental Conference the Italian Presidency's aim was to abide as closely as possible by the draft drawn up by the Convention, which was the outcome of thorough, democratic debate, but it was ready to give constructive consideration to the proposals made by each Member State, in order to accommodate legitimate demands that could not be set aside.
- This difficult work resulted in a text supported by a large majority of the Member States, which will henceforward be considered as a "negotiating acquis" not open to further discussion, thereby achieving a significant advance on the path of closer integration between the States and the citizens of the enlarged Union.
- The Presidency notes that it found a general desire to move towards a more integrated and more ambitious Union. The responsibility for continuing along that path and taking forward that undertaking will be a joint one.
- The Presidency confirms that the hopes on which the Treaties of Rome were based continue still today to constitute a heritage of ideals handed down by the generation of the founding fathers to the Europeans of tomorrow.