

## Schedule for the 2003-2004 Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)

**Caption:** Schedule for the meetings of the Conference of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States (Intergovernmental Conference - IGC) which started work on 4 October 2003, culminating on 18 June 2004 with the adoption of the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

**Source:** Work of the IGC 2003/2004. [ON-LINE]. [Brussels]: European Commission, [01.02.2005]. Available on [http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/cig2004/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/cig2004/index_en.htm).

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**Last updated:** 03/08/2016

## Schedule for the 2003-2004 Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)

| Date                                 | Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Matters under discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                      | Meetings under the Italian Presidency:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| (without agenda)                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informal bilateral meetings between the Presidency and the delegations</li> <li>- Meetings between the President of the European Council (Silvio Berlusconi) and his counterparts</li> <li>- Meetings between the President of the Council (Franco Frattini) and his counterparts</li> <li>- 'Tour of capitals'</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4 October 2003<br>(Rome)             | Meeting of the Heads of State or Government, the President of the European Parliament and the President of the European Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official opening of the IGC.</li> <li>- General policy discussion</li> <li>- Exchange of views on the negotiations</li> <li>- Procedural matters relating to the IGC</li> <li>Adoption of the 'Declaration of Rome'</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4 October 2003                       | First ministerial meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislative Council</li> <li>- Formations of the Council and rotating presidencies</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9 October 2003                       | Meeting of the legal experts' working party (*)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandate:</li> <li>- To examine in depth the draft constitutional treaty prepared by the Convention from a legal and linguistic standpoint</li> <li>- To examine the provisions of the accession treaties that have amended the existing treaties after each enlargement</li> <li>- To examine the Protocols and Declarations annexed to the Treaties in the course of preceding IGCs</li> </ul> |
| 10 October 2003                      | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 14 October 2003                      | Second ministerial meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Foreign Affairs</li> <li>- Composition of the Commission</li> <li>- Rotating presidencies of the Council's formations</li> <li>- Composition of the European Parliament</li> <li>- Role of the European Council and its President</li> <li>- Definition of qualified majority</li> <li>- Defence: structured cooperation and the solidarity clause</li> </ul>                    |
| 15 October 2003                      | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 16 and 17 October 2003<br>(Brussels) | EUROPEAN COUNCIL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Composition of the European Parliament</li> <li>- Role of the European Council and its President</li> <li>- Definition of qualified majority</li> <li>- Defence</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 October 2003              | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 21 October 2003              | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 24 October 2003              | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 27 October 2003              | Third ministerial meeting                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-institutional issues (values and objectives of the Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, finance and the budgetary procedure, economic and financial policy, justice and home affairs, external relations, other policies of the Union, amendment of the Treaties)</li> <li>- Scope of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Council Presidency and its various configurations</li> </ul> |
| 29 October 2003              | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 31 October 2003              | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5 November 2003              | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             | <p>New mandate:<br/> Legal and technical clarification of certain points regarding 'non-institutional issues' raised by delegations in the course of the negotiations</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 6 November 2003              | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10 November 2003             | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 14 November 2003             | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 18 November 2003             | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 18 November 2003             | Fourth ministerial meeting                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Foreign Affairs of the European Union</li> <li>- Procedures for amending the Constitutional Treaty (lighter amendment)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 19 November 2003             | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 20-21 November 2003          | Meeting of the contact points ('focal points') designated by the Member States |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 25 November 2003             | Meeting of the of the legal experts' working party                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 28-29 November 2003 (Naples) | Ministerial conclave                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interim review of the activities of the IGC</li> <li>- Policies of the Union</li> <li>- Simplified amendment procedure of the Constitutional Treaty</li> <li>- Defence (particularly structured cooperation and the mutual defence clause)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |

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|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | - Institutional matters (Commission, Minister for Foreign Affairs, double majority system in the Council)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9 December 2003                           | Sixth ministerial meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | - Defence (structured cooperation)<br>- Budgetary questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 12-13 December 2003<br>(Brussels)         | EUROPEAN COUNCIL<br>Bilateral meetings between the Presidency and the delegations ('confessional' meetings)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Voting by qualified majority within the Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                           | Meetings under the Irish Presidency:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| January-February 2004<br>(without agenda) | - Consultations between the outgoing Italian Presidency and the Irish Presidency<br>- Informal bilateral meetings between the Presidency and the delegations<br>- Meetings between the President of the European Council (Bertie Ahern) and his counterparts<br>- Meetings between the President of the Council (Brian Cowen) and his counterparts | Voting system in the Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 26 January 2004                           | General Affairs Council (without formal IGC meeting)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | First open debate between Ministers of Foreign Affairs (listening forum)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 25-26 March 2004<br>(Brussels)            | EUROPEAN COUNCIL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Irish Presidency's mandate to resume IGC deliberations following assessment of an increased political will to find a compromise (points remaining open:<br>- Size and composition of the Commission<br>- Definition and field of application of a qualified majority vote within the Council<br>- Minimum number of seats in the European Parliament) |
| 4 May 2004                                | Meeting of the contact points ('focal points') designated by the Member States                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Technical and linguistic clarification of many of the less contentious points                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| May-June 2004                             | 'Tour of capitals' pursued by the President of the European Council (Bertie Ahern)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Institutional issues                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 17-18 May 2004                            | Seventh Ministerial meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | - Budgetary procedure<br>- Scope of qualified majority voting within the Council<br>- Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 24 May 2004                               | Eighth Ministerial meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | - Definition of a qualified majority within the Council<br>- Preamble of the Constitutional Treaty<br>- Budgetary procedure                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 14 June 2004                              | Ninth Ministerial meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Open questions: particularly the scope of qualified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               |                                                                                                             | majority voting, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the preamble and some questions relating to economic policy (Stability Pact, procedure for excessive deficits) |
| 17-18 June 2004<br>(Brussels) | EUROPEAN COUNCIL<br>Bilateral meetings between the Presidency and the delegations ('confessional' meetings) | - Voting system in the Council<br>- Non-institutional issues still open (transport and energy policies, Eurojust)                                                  |
| 18 June 2004                  | European Council meeting as IGC                                                                             | Agreement of Heads of State or Government on the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe                                                                     |

As a result of the length of time that the Convention's preparations required, the organisation of the 2003-2004 IGC is different from its predecessors:

- 1) Initially, no meeting was planned for the representatives of the Member States. However, in order to channel the flow of information, the Member States designate contact points or 'focal points' (officials possessing a mainly administrative role).
  - 2) Ministerial meetings: Negotiations take place at foreign minister level. The Commission participates in activities via its representative (Michel Barnier, then António Vitorino). Two European Parliament observers attend meetings (Klaus Hänsch and Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, then Elmar Brok). The governments of the three applicant countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey) participate qua observers.
  - 3) European Council: At Heads of State or Government level, the Commission is represented by its President (Romano Prodi), and Parliament likewise (Pat Cox).
- (\*). Legal experts' working party: Chaired by M. Piris, Director-General of the Council's Legal Service, it is made up of representatives of the Member States, as well as of the Commission, Parliament and observers from the three applicant countries.