

## Interview with António Vitorino: the methods of the European Convention (Lisbon, 24 October 2007)

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[Miriam Mateus] And what are the advantages of associating the method of the Convention with the method of the IGC?

[António Vitorino] I think that the Convention method was an original one, in that it had this diversified composition and allowed a more transparent and more open debate because the Convention sessions were held in public and everyone could follow the debates in the media, and, what's more, all the documents drafted by and debated in the Convention were published on its own website. So, in relation to the diplomatic negotiations typical of an Intergovernmental Conference, the advantage of the Convention is the transparency, openness and diversity of the people behind it. In terms of this latest Intergovernmental Conference, since we were working on the basis of the Constitutional Treaty, with a text that had already benefited from the added value of the Convention itself, the Convention method was not used.