

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

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[Miriam Mateus] What memories do you have of the working atmosphere in the Convention?

[António Vitorino] I think there are two highlights. The first is that, for the first time in a European institution like the Convention, a very substantial number of representatives appointed by national parliaments were present — in fact, most members of the Convention. And that mixture of representatives of the European institutions, the European Parliament and the European Commission, representatives of Member State governments and representatives of national parliaments, produced an institution that was unique in the EU and a debate that was unprecedented in the EU's 50-year history. The second highlight is that, in some ways, many people didn't believe that a final agreement or consensus would be reached in the Convention. And what allowed that final consensus was, to some extent, a mindset of founding countries, so to speak, or, in other words, the idea that we were producing a text that would reform the Union.