

# **Intergovernmental Conference 2003 – Romanian delegation position on the Legislative Function, the Formation of the Council and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers<sup>1</sup>**

## **1. The Legislative Function**

Romania considers that the legislative function should continue to be exercised by the Council's formations, the distinction between the legislative and executive functions being ensured by separating the items on the agenda in two categories. Whenever the Council exercises the legislative functions, its meeting should be public.

## **2. The Formations of the Council**

The list of Council's formations should be decided by the European Council by consensus, as stipulated in the draft Constitutional Treaty. In line with the decision by the European Council in Seville, the number of Council's formations should be limited.

## **3. The Presidency of the Council of Ministers**

Romania believes that the Presidency of the Council's formations, apart from Foreign Affairs Council, should be held by Member States representatives, on the basis of an equal rotation. Romania is in favor of a Team Presidency system for the Council's formations, with a limited number of Member States, but not less than three. As for the duration of the term of the Presidency of each Council's formations, it should be at least one year. Constitutional Treaty should provide only the general principles for the formations of the Team Presidency, on a basis of an equal rotation, taking into account European Political and geographical balance and the diversity of the MS.

Romanian delegation considers that a "chain of command" should be maintained between the Presidency of the General Affairs Council and that of COREPER. PSC and the other external relations working parties should be coordinated by the Foreign Affairs Minister, and the representatives of the European External Action Service could chair these structures. The coherence of in the Council's proceedings should be ensured by an informal coordination between the representatives of the MS in the Team Presidency and the European Minister of Foreign Affairs. The way to organize this coordination should be left to the discretion of the concerned representatives.

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<sup>1</sup> Abstract based on ANNEX - CIG 28/03, October 15, 2003