

BROAD OUTLINE OF THE BENELUX-MEMORANDUM

- ✓ • The European Union is more than just a union of states. It is also an ever-closer union increasing the solidarity between the peoples of Europe.
- ✓ • The EU must have strong common institutions, must favour and extend the Community method, and must strengthen those features of the institutions which can best foster the common interest.
- ✓ • The Benelux is not in favour of creating new institutions. The point is to make the existing institutions more effective.

Reinforcing the institution which guarantees the common interest: the Commission

- ✓ • A Commission President elected by the European Parliament with a three-fifth majority and confirmed by a qualified majority vote of the European Council
- a strong Commission, eventually reduced in scale in accordance with decisions made at Nice, guaranteeing the equality of all member states in both its operations and membership, which will be based on the principle of equal rotation;
- a Commission answerable to the two institutions involved in appointing it and subject to dismissal through censure by them;
- a Commission operating as a college

Enhancing legislative operations

- ✓ The EU's legislative operations should be carried out using the Community method:
 - The Commission having the sole right of initiative
 - Using qualified majority voting as the norm in legislation;
 - Extending the Community method to include legislation adopted to combat crime;
 - Fully applying the Community method in the framework of legislation concerning asylum, migration and judicial cooperation in civil matters;
 - Public legislative meetings of Council.
 - Using the codecision procedure as the norm in legislation.
 - Decision-making powers for EP, together with Council, on all expenditure. Abolishing the distinction between compulsory and non-compulsory spending.
 - Increased authority for EP over revenue.

Enhancing executive operations

- ✓ • The Commission must be responsible for adopting regulatory measures and enacting legislation. The European Parliament and Council may establish the conditions for this in the underlying legislative act.

- Closer coordination of economic policies within the BEPG. The BEPG must be fixed on a multiannual basis in order to enhance their effectiveness.
- Strengthening the role of the Commission in monitoring the Stability and Growth Pact.

✓ Strengthening the European Council's role of providing impetus

- ✓ • The European Council draws up the EU's multiannual programme on the basis of a Commission proposal;
- α • the European Council, at which the High Representative and the Commissioner for External Relations participates (via *double hatting*), provides the impetus and policy direction required for the EU's actions in the field of the CFSP;

✓ Involving national parliaments

- The Commission informs member states' parliaments of its legislative proposals and of its annual of its legislative programme;
- Better exchange of information through a strengthened COSAC.
- The Convention method should be extended to include any future amendments to the constitutional treaty.
- ✓ • The Benelux is against creating a congress of European peoples,
- Involvement of national parliaments in monitoring subsidiarity
- No right for national parliaments to turn to the Court *a posteriori*.

✓ A coherent institutional framework guaranteeing effective EU external policy

- 6 • The roles of High Representative for the CFSP and Commissioner for External Relations should be performed by a single person (known as *double hatting*), with the status of Commission Vice-President, but performing in the field of the CFSP and CESDP under Council authority.
- His duties consist of the external representation of all issues relating to the CFSP or CESDP. The Commission performs external representation for all other EU policies, as it already does at the WTO.
- In the final stage the High Representative must have the right of initiative in the CFSP

The Benelux countries invite current and future member states which share this vision of the future of the European Union to support the proposals outlined in this memorandum.

α+β. Ουσιαστική ελίγηση του εσωτερικού ρόλου της Ένωσης. Συγκρότηση
καθορισμού ο ρόλος α οι αλλαγές του Ευρωπαϊκού Συμβουλίου