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**Θέμα:** ACED minutes Berlin 23/24 Feb 07

Dear member of the ACED,

Please find attached to the e-mail the minutes of the last meeting in Berlin.

As agreed on, the final meeting concluding with a press conference will take place:  
 - in Brussels, on Sunday 3/ Monday 4 June 2007.

Should an additional meeting before June prove necessary  
 (depending on reactions to the drafts to be produced by the Schuman Centre, to be circulated by e-mail),  
 we kindly ask you to indicate whether you would be available for one/both of the below proposed dates  
 so that we can flag one of these dates.

The suggested options for an additional meeting in FLORENCE are either:

- 22/23 April 2007
- or
- 29/30 April 2007.

*Mr Simitis prefers that the April meeting takes place on 22/23 April. but he is also available on 29/30 April.*

Please let me know as soon as possible your potential availability.

Finally, the participants of the Berlin meeting requesting reimbursement of their travel expenses are asked to send a brief mail to  
 Monique Cavallari / Elisabetta Spagnoli ([rscas.conferences@eui.eu](mailto:rscas.conferences@eui.eu)) who will provide you with all details.

On behalf of G. Amato and S. Collignon,  
 With best regards,

Eva Heidbreder

*Dear Mrs Heidbreder  
 Responding to your recent e mail  
 I would like to inform you that  
 ...  
 with best regards  
 N. Themelis*

2/3/2007

## ACTION COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY (ACED)

### MINUTES OF THE CONCLUSIONS

3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING, BERLIN 23/24 FEBRUARY 2007

#### I PARTICIPANTS<sup>1</sup>

*Giuliano Amato, Michel Barnier, Stefan Collignon, Jean-Luc Dehaene, Danuta Hübner with Joanna Szychowska, Paavo Lipponen with Tapio Pekkola, János Martonyi, Otto Schily, António Vitorino, Margot Wallström (only Saturday) with Floriana Sípala (also Friday dinner), Paolo Ponzano (Expert EU Commission/RSCAS), Jacques Ziller (Expert RSCAS), Eva Heidbreder (Assistant); Wolfgang Schäuble (visiting the ACED as a friend of the group, only Friday evening).*

#### II COURSE OF ACTION OF REUNION

- Friday evening, working dinner in the hotel *Brandenburger Hof*: the ACED welcomed the German Minister of interior, Wolfgang Schäuble, as their guest. The session focused on questions of a suitable timetable for the ACED and the format of an alternative treaty to be suggested.
- Saturday morning, session in the *Bosch Foundation*: continuation of the discussion.
- Saturday lunch, *Embassy of the Republic of Italy*: closing of the meeting.

#### III KEY CONCLUSIONS

*Of central importance will be a clear mandate to be produced under German presidency, estimating that only if backed by such a mandate the subsequent Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies will be able to engage with great commitment in the process to conclude it before the 2009 European parliamentary elections.*

*The group recognises that its proposals should not be published too early, an appropriate date should be between the French Presidential elections and the IGC in June.* ;

#### SHAPE AND CONTENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE TREATY:

- In the light of the meeting of the 20 (supporters of the existent Treaty for a Constitution) and with reference to the letter by J.-L. Dehaene and I. Mendez de Vigo provided to the ACED, which underlined the likelihood that the more re-writing/re-shuffling the more would the scope for an IGC to conclude an agreement decrease,
- instead of a re-shuffling of the Constitutional Treaty (first intended to render text more acceptable to public opinion), it is preferable to stick closer to the existing structure and to work in the direction of a mandate produced under German presidency based upon the principles of:
  - a shorter text including only on Parts I and II (through one article giving legal force to the Charter) and the absolutely necessary elements of Parts III and IV of the Constitutional Treaty, adding some new elements (e.g. on policies such as social, sustainable development, climate change, but also on institutions, such as the parliamentary election of the Commission's President),
  - adapting the existing Treaties where necessary, without consolidating them into an entirely new text,
  - there were discussions on the way of drafting the protocols:
    - A 'traditional' option in which only changes are listed (e.g. in Article X, paragraph y the following words are added ...), and which might be shorter than Part III but only legible for experts;

<sup>1</sup> Members of the group but not present in the meeting: Sandra Kalniete, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Wim Kok, Chris Patten, Costas Simitis, Inigo Mendez de Vigo.



- A longer but more legible option in which the changed articles and paragraphs are listed in full.

*Drafts for the shorter treaty and protocols shall be prepared by the RSCAS.*

- Alternatively to the option of including a substantial 'plus' in the first mandate for an IGC, it was suggested to split the process, so that the German presidency would **produce two mandates**:
  1. Mandate for an IGC to produce an alternative mainly *institutional* treaty (including the essential institutional reforms + and the absolutely necessary elements of Parts III and IV), this would have to provide the legal basis to produce new policies  
→ short IGC to put into action this mandate;
  2. Mandate for a Single Act to go beyond the institutional and legal adaptations and formulate new *policies* in their substance: energy, climate, social issues etc.  
→ IGC to deal with this mandate with a broader time frame, as from 2008.

#### NAME FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TREATY:

- An alternative treaty should not be a constitution nor bear this name.
- The ACED shall refrain from suggesting a specific name.

#### IV FURTHER PROCEDURE/MEETINGS

*The ACED has fixed a final meeting which shall be held on the basis on a set of preparatory documents to be produced by the Robert Schuman Centre of Advanced Studies (Florence) outlining different options as outlined above.*

#### REACH AND AUDIENCE OF FINAL REPORT BY THE ACED:

- The final report should address the German and subsequent EU presidencies, and
- the wider public, providing ideas in the broad direction of the 'federalist papers', as well as the ACED members should support campaigns – also beyond the limits of the meetings of the ACED – targeting specific objections raised in the most 'critical' countries.

#### DATE AND VENUE FOR THE FINAL MEETING:

- **Brussels 3/4 June 2007:**

Meeting on Sunday evening to finalise the discussions to be followed by a press conference in the late Monday morning.

#### PREPARATION FOR FINAL DOCUMENT / OPTION FOR INTERMEDIATE MEETING

- The **documents** which have been called on to be written by the RSCAS will be distributed by the **end of March 2007**,
- **comments** on these are to be circulated via e-mail amongst the members of the ACED in order to estimate whether they provide a sufficient basis to agree on a final document in Brussels in June.
- In case the written exchanges indicate the necessity for another **additional meeting** before June, this meeting shall take place in **late April**, suggested dates:
  - Florence: 22/23 April 2007, OR
  - Florence: 29/30 April 2007.

*PLEASE indicate your potential availability for a preferred option to E. Heidbreder!*