NOTE
from: the Hungarian delegation

Subject: IGC 2003
- Reply from Hungary to the questionnaire on the Legislative Function, the Formations of the Council and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (doc. CIG 9/03)

Delegations will find attached the reply from the Hungarian delegation to the questionnaire on the Legislative Function, the Formations of the Council and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (see doc. CIG 9/03).
I. THE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTION

1. Hungary does not support the establishment of the Legislative Council. Consequently for each Council formation a legislative function (public) and a part dedicated to other activities are to be determined.

2. The public legislative part should be concerned only with laws and framework laws adopted under the normal legislative procedure.

II. THE FORMATIONS OF THE COUNCIL

3. In our view the European Council’s decision on the list of Council formations should be taken by a qualified majority. The decision on the list of Council formations should cover the nine Council formations defined by the Council Decision adopting the Council’s Rules of Procedure (2002/682/EC, Euratom), from which the draft Constitutional Treaty splits the current General Affairs and External Relations Council into two formations: Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council.

III. THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

4. No Council formation apart from the Foreign Affairs Council should have a fixed presidency. Each Council formation apart from the Foreign Affairs Council should operate under the rotation system.

5. Hungary favours to continue to use the rotation system. The Team Presidency might be one option to be considered, but we are open to take into consideration other modalities of rotation as well.

6. If it is decided to opt for a Team Presidency system

   (a) It should be composed of 4 or 5 Member States.
   (b) Its term should be 2 or 2.5 years.
   (c) The composition of the teams should be left open.
   (d) The allocation of the different Council formations should be left to the discretion of the Member States in the team.
7. Yes, the Member State chairing the General Affairs Council, should also chair the Coreper I and II.

8. Yes, the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council in question should chair the subordinated committees/working parties.

9. No. The rotation should be applied for PSC and external relations working parties.

10. We agree that informal co-ordination should take place but it should not be institutionalised.

11. The rules on essential elements of the decision making should be set out in the Treaty establishing the Constitution, while the detailed arrangements could be adopted later between the date of the signature and the entry in force of the Constitutional Treaty by the European Council acting unanimously.