

COVER NOTE

from Secretariat

to The Convention

Subject : Document received from Mr René van der Linden and Mr Frans Timmermans, members of the Convention - "Declaration on the role of national parliaments to raise national European awareness"

Members of the Convention will find attached a document that the President of the Convention has received on 9 July 2003 from Mr René van der Linden and Mr Frans Timmermans, members of the Convention, which has been co-signed by fifty other members and alternates of the Convention.

To: The Praesidium
From: Mr Van der Linden
Mr Timmermans
Subject: Declaration on the Role of national parliaments in the European Debate

Brussels, July 9, 2003

Dear Mister President, dear Mr Giscard d'Estaing,

Herewith we present a Declaration on the Role of national parliaments in the European Debate: "Raise national European awareness" and the letter to our fellow parliamentarian (alternate) members which accompanied the draft-Declaration. The Declaration is undersigned by 52 parliamentarians; they are mentioned in an enclosed list.

We kindly ask you to enclose the Declaration in your final report to the Intergovernmental Conference and draw the IGC's specific attention to it.

For your information we mention that we will also ask to put the Declaration on the agenda of COSAC and the Conference of Speakers.

We thank you for your effort.

Sincerely yours,

René van der Linden

Frans Timmermans

Declaration on the Role of national parliaments in the European Debate

Raise national European awareness

The European Commission shall send its Annual Legislative and Work programme (as well as the 3-month rolling programme) to the Member States' national parliaments

The legislative and work programme will be subject of a **(coinciding) debate in all the national parliaments**

The debate in the national parliaments will be held in the same week as the debate about the Commission's programme in the European Parliament

Scheduling a specific week (after the presentation of the programme by the Commission) to have simultaneously debates will create a common window which will:

- enable the parliaments to **properly and preliminary check the compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality.**
- further **strengthen the European role of the national parliaments**
- encourage the parliaments to put **European issues on the national political agenda and make their European views known**
- **raise national awareness** of the activities of the European Union
- create more **support for European development by the citizens** and will contribute to the **European Union of the citizens.**
- **involve –also on the national level- civil society** and the organisations representing civil society (social partners, the business world, non-governmental organisations, academia etc).

Dear Colleague,

We have decided on the draft constitutional treaty; we now need to implement this in the national parliaments. As a result of the discussion in the Convention we -as members of the national parliaments- have to strengthen the democratic process and the implementation of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality (as established in the protocol on the role of the national parliaments).

Once a year the European Commission presents the Annual Legislative and Work Programme. This offers an excellent opportunity for a strengthened role and involvement of the national parliaments in the European integration process. I believe, we should use this reinforced role as an instrument to raise the national European awareness.

I propose a coinciding **debate in all the national parliaments** on the **Annual Legislative and Work Programme** of the **European Commission in the same week** as this debate will be scheduled in the European Parliament.

Within the momentum of the Convention and the upcoming intergovernmental conference now is the time to take this step.

Not only to realise a further strengthening of the role and involvement of the parliaments in the European integration process,

But specifically to enable and encourage the social partners, the civil society and the European citizens to get (more) involved also on the national level. This is of utmost importance.

It will bring the citizens closer to the Union and will raise the national European awareness.

With this writing I call for your support for the “Declaration on the role of National Parliaments in the European debate. To raise National European Awareness”.

It will be necessary for us to proclaim this declaration in our national parliaments.

Not only will we -hopefully with the support of many Convention members- hand this Declaration over to the Praesidium, but also transmit this declaration to the speakers of the member states parliaments inviting them to support this proposal.

R. Van der Linden

(Member of the Convention representing the Dutch Senate)

Parliamentarian (alternate) members who signed the Declaration on the Role of national parliaments in the European Debate: “Raise national European awareness”

Mr René van der Linden	Mr Frans Timmermans
Mr Wim van Eekelen	Mr Jan Jacob van Dijk
Mr Jürgen Meyer	Mr Caspar Einem
Mr Peter Altmeier	Mr Alberto Costa
Mr Ben Fayot	Mr António Nazaré-Pereira
Mr Erwin Teufel	Mr Guilherme d’Oliveira Martins
Mr Paraskevas Avgerinos	Mr Jari Vilén
Mr Panayiotis Demetriou	Mr Göran Lennmarker
Mrs Marietta Giannakou	Lord Maclennon of Rogart
Mr Kimmo Kiljunen	Mrs Renée Wagener
Mr Josep Borell Fontelles	Mrs Mary Nagy
Mr Jozef Oleksy	Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis
Mr Gabriel Cisneros Laborda	Mr George Vella
Mrs Marta Fogler	Mr Edmund Wittbrodt
Mr József Szájer	Mr András Kelemen
Mr Hubert Haenel	Mr John Bruton
Mr Proinsias De Rossa	Mr Lamberto Dini
Mr Valdo Spini	Mr Zekeriya Akcam
Mr Mihael Brejc	Mr Michael Frendo
Mr Pierre Lequiller	Mr Adrian Séverin
Mr Jan Fige	Mrs Genowefa Grabowska
Mr Kemal Dervis	Mrs Irena Belohorská
Mrs Liene Liepina	Mr Josef Zieleniec
Mr Tunne Kelam	Mr Nikolai Mladenov
Mr Frantisek Kroupa	Mr Aloisz Peterle
Mr D. Roche	Mr B. McDonagh