

EUROPEAN PRESIDENCY WORKING GROUP – SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

I: Why a European Presidency?

Having a figurehead would certainly contribute to giving the Union a face, not only on the international scene but also for the people of Europe. Secondly, it has been said that the EU lacks the democratic structures we require these days – a President with a strong democratic mandate would ensure more accountability and a clearer division of competencies in the European Union as such.

Lastly, the current rotation system prevents any kind of consistency in the European Policy making process – a President would be able to provide for this and thus contribute to the effectiveness of Union's operations which need to obey federal procedures with regard to some well-defined core competencies.

II: What kind of a European Presidency?

Only a single President can ensure the criteria mentioned above. A double presidency would constitute a compromise, which, in this particular context, would fail to provide the European Union with the leadership it requires; it would lead to a conflict of competencies, which in turn would lead to stalemate and immobility.

The parliamentary parties propose candidates (who do not have to be MEP but can be). The President is then chosen by the European Parliament alone which has been elected by the European People beforehand. He/she appoints the members of the European Executive that would replace the Commission. Of course, he/she would have to take into account a certain national equilibrium in nominating his crew (no country can have more than one Secretary).

The members of the European Executive would be called European Secretaries and would be allocated a specific portfolio. There would be a special provision for the European Secretary for Foreign Affairs – he would be selected by a co-decision procedure between the European Parliament and the European Council.

The President is in charge of matters where the EU has federal competencies, and he initiates EU policy with the European Executive. He works closely with the Foreign Secretary and Member States to decide on EU Foreign Policy.

The President is responsible in front of the EP. It can destitute the President by a constructive censorship motion (according to the German model for the election of the chancellor). That means that the EP has to elect a new President in order to destitute the former one.