



II Assembly of the European Students Convention

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Final proposals

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SCIENCES PO

SUMMARY

<u>COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY</u>	4
FOREIGN MINISTER:	4
CFSP DECISION PROCEDURE:	4
MILITARY CAPABILITIES:	5
EMBASSIES:	5
COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT:	5
<u>EDUCATION</u>	7
INSERTION OF NEW ARTICLE:	7
MOVING OF ARTICLE I-16 TO ARTICLE I-13:	7
INSERTION OF NEW ARTICLE:	8
INSERTION OF NEW ARTICLE:	8
<u>INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE I</u>	9
EUROPEAN COUNCIL	9
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS	9
COMMISSION	10
PARLIAMENT	10
<u>FINAL PROVISIONS</u>	11
ARTICLE IV- 6 (EX ARTICLE F) :	11
ARTICLE IV- 7 (EX ARTICLE G) :	13
<u>IDENTITY</u>	16
PART I TITLE I DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION	16
PART I TITLE VI DEMOCRATIC LIFE OF THE UNION	16
PART I TITLE IX UNION MEMBERSHIP	17

PART I TITLE IX VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL	17
<u>COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION</u>	18
EU IMAGE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	18
<u>SOCIAL EUROPE</u>	19
<u>ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE</u>	23
I MONETARY POLICY	23
II FISCAL POLICY	23
III INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES	23
IV STABILITY AND GROWTH PACT	24
<u>DEFENCE</u>	25
QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING IN ESDP	25
MILITARY ACADEMY	25
PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL FOR MORE LEGITIMACY	25
NEUTRAL EUROPEAN STATES / COOPERATION WITH UN	26
MUTUAL SOLIDARITY CLAUSE IN DEFENCE	26

Common Foreign and Security Policy

The Common Foreign and Security Policy working group unanimously regards an effective CFSP as essential to the European project and its success. We place the emphasis on the *common* nature of European CFSP as its main goal is to give Europe a strong and united voice in world politics. Europe should achieve more coherence internally and, by adopting a common position, increase cooperation in international organisations. We also believe that Europe's immense political and economic strength should be employed to promote peace, reduce poverty and add positive impetus to valuable international endeavours.

Therefore we propose:

Foreign Minister:

1. In agreement with the draft Constitution, the Union should establish a European Foreign Minister.
2. In disagreement with the draft Constitution, The Foreign Minister should be solely responsible for articulating EU foreign policy. No other EU official (including the Presidents of the Commission and the European Council) may interfere with his work in this area.
3. In disagreement with the draft Constitution, The Foreign Minister and the European Council shall share the right to propose policy initiatives.
4. In disagreement with the draft Constitution, The President of the European Commission should propose candidates for the post of Foreign Minister. European Council may vote the Foreign Minister in subject to a dual threshold – at least 2/3 of all member states in the European Council should vote in favour and these countries should represent at least 2/3 of the Union's population.

CFSP decision procedure:

1. In variance with the draft Constitution, we think that the European Council shall vote on CFSP subject to a dual threshold – at least 2/3 of all member states in the European Council should vote in favour and these countries should represent at least 2/3 of the Union's population.
2. In agreement with the draft Constitution, decisions concerning the deployment of troops should be taken by the European Council subject to enhanced qualified majority voting.

3. Supporting the idea of the draft Constitution we think that member states may abstain from the deployment of troops. If 1/3 or more abstain, the deployment should not be carried out.
4. In disagreement with the draft Constitution, states wishing to do so can opt out of participating in military interventions from the beginning.

Military capabilities:

1. In addition to the draft Constitution, we believe the Rapid Reaction Force should be established on a permanent basis and be of the highest possible technological standard. The highly mobile Rapid Reaction Force should be deployed in emergency situations that require military intervention.
2. In addition to the draft Constitution, we believe that the EU should establish a common European Army, deployed in major crises that require a greater military presence.
3. The European Army should be available to international organisations like the UN should the EU wish to participate in their actions.

Embassies:

1. Preserving the status quo, the EU member states' embassies within the Union shall remain unchanged as they are vital vehicles of diplomacy and facilitate the exchange of information and ideas.
2. As an original innovation we would like to suggest EU member states' embassies outside the Union should be fused to form official European Union embassies that will represent the European Union to the world and conduct diplomacy on the EU's behalf.

Cooperation & Development:

1. In accordance with the draft Constitution, the Union's work in humanitarian and developmental aid is of crucial importance. The EU should aim to promote activities that will alleviate poverty, raise living standards and help to build up infrastructure and democracy in developing countries, at all times acting in compliance with International Humanitarian Law.
2. We believe that the effective responsibility for sustainable development should be adopted by the Union. The EU

coordination will ensure greater efficiency and shall lead to harmonisation of aid distribution between recipient states.

3. We believe that EuropeAid shall aim to operate at the regional level in recipient countries to avoid local inefficiency and corruption.
4. The EU should maximise its commitment to fair trade.

Education

Insertion of new article:

Article I-3

4A: The Union promotes critical thinking and responsibility among its citizens, by guaranteeing high-quality education. The Union promotes teaching about European diversity starting at primary level in order to avoid stereotypes.

Moving of Article I-16 to Article I-13:

From the competence of support section to the shared competences section.

Insertion of new article:

Article I-26/A: *The right to intern and to study abroad*

Every European student has the right and equal opportunities to intern or study abroad, independent of his/her financial abilities.

Insertion of new article:

Article I-26/B: *The European Education Agency (EEA)*

1. EEA together with the national governments and the educational institutions defines guidelines aiming at the development of European education.
2. EEA sets minimum European standards and guarantees quality by constant control.
3. EEA administers a "Cohesion Fund for Education" which provides assistance to schools to meet the minimum standards and for students to study or intern abroad.
4. EEA creates a European Student Card to provide all European students the same status.
5. EEA is independent of national governments.

Insertion of new article:

Article I-26/C: *The institution of a "European Student Ombudsman"*

Every European student can access the "European Student Ombudsman" if he/she is discriminated against.

Insertion of new article:

Article I-26/D: *The creation of a European Network of Excellence*

A network of European top quality higher education institutions is created.

Insertion of new article:

Article I-26/E: *The importance of vocational training*

The EU recognizes the importance of vocational training and supports it through the EEA.

Institutional Architecture I

Some time ago, the President of the Commission Romano Prodi gave a very important speech on the incorporation of new countries into the European Union, in which he said that there are a number of countries with which we could “share everything but the institutions”, meaning that the institutions are the real core of the European Union and the basis for European identity. This is the reason why we chose this topic.

European Council

1. The role of the European Council shall be limited to defining the general political guidelines of the Union rather than its “general political directions and priorities” as proposed in art. I-20.1. The Commission, under the supervision of the European Parliament, shall give the impetus for concrete political action.
2. A permanent chair of the European Council shall be nominated for a term of 2 1/2 years, by consensus, but insist that he/she must only have a technical, rather than a political, role. The President of the Commission shall be the head of the European Union.

Council of Ministers

1. In order to simplify the structure of the Union and to ensure the division of legislative and executive powers the Council of Ministers shall be transformed into a second chamber of the European Parliament.
2. The executive functions of the Council of Ministers must then be transferred to the Commission.
3. The presidency of the second chamber shall rotate between member states, in 6-month periods. The president would perform technical functions and decide on the procedures of the chamber. There shall one unique president for all Council formations.
4. The principles of qualified majority voting and co-decision shall be adopted by the two-chamber parliament.

Commission

1. The European Parliament shall elect the President of the Commission, from the candidates presented by those parties represented in the Parliament. The President shall be elected by an absolute majority with a second round of voting, if necessary.
2. The President shall have the power to freely decide the composition of the Commission, through selection of commissioners. There should be no restrictions to the number of commissioners, or the national origin of the commissioners. The competencies of each commissioner must be clearly defined.

Parliament

1. To ensure the efficient functioning of the European Parliament the number of deputies shall be limited to 700, with a reform of the distribution of seats (with a minimum of four for each member state) to guarantee proportional representation and to respect the equality of citizens.
2. In order to promote European identity and European political culture 10-20% of the parliamentarians shall be elected from supra-national lists.
3. Electoral procedure for the elections to the European Parliament shall be uniform for all member states.
4. The power to initiate legislation is an essential feature of a democratically elected assembly and this right shall be granted to the European Parliament, with the limitation that only a group of parliamentarians can take the initiative.

There was one further proposal which was briefly discussed but not voted upon concerning the European Court of Justice. This was to divide the jurisdiction of the Court into ordinary and constitutional, leaving the guarding of the constitutional principles and of the competence system to a new European Constitutional Court.

Final provisions

The final provisions are as a subject quite technical, but nonetheless include several elements being of particular political interest. This has been the reason for why we chose this subject as the basis for our work, which relies on three principal ideas:

- **Emphasizing the value of the present Treaty** representing a Constitution of the European Union;
- **Taking into account that this Constitution is made for the people of Europe:** procedures, which are efficient, transparent and accessible, have to be made possible
- **Strengthening the integration:** avoid minority blockings so as to prevent that they no longer hinder the Union to become more and more close, as is mostly desired

Our first suggestion is thus to rename the present Treaty « Constitution ». This term will contribute to accentuating its symbolic value as well as to reinforce the tie with the citizens, as it no longer refers to a pure interstate level of classic international relations (as does the term "treaty"). Moreover, the term "Constitution" will be more easily understandable and thus more easily accepted by the European citizens who already tend to speak of a Constitution rather than a treaty.

NB : The elements needing explanation are in italics.

Article IV- 6 (Ex Article F) :

Procedure for revising the Constitution

1. The government of any Member State, the Commission, the European Parliament (by a majority of two thirds of its members) or *a group of at least five national Parliaments* may submit to the Council proposals for the amendment of the Constitution.

The European Parliament is obliged to take into consideration *a popular petition* signed by at least 5% of all voters coming from at least five different Member States (every Member State being represented by at least 0,5% of its population); it has to take the initiative of such a revision if the aforesaid petition is approved by 1/3 of the European delegates present at the vote.

2. The national Parliaments of the Member States shall be notified of the proposals made by a government of a Member State, the Commission or the European Parliament.
3. If the European Council, after consulting the European Parliament and the Commission, adopts by a simple majority a decision in favour of examining the proposed amendments, the President of the European Council shall convene a *Convention* (one representative of the government of every Member State; two of every national parliament; same number of representatives of the European Parliament as of the national parliaments; four members of the Commission). The European Central Bank shall also be consulted in the case of Institutional changes in the monetary area.

The European Council may *decide by a 4/5-majority* not to convene the Convention should this not be justified by the extent of the proposed amendments.

The Convention shall examine the proposals for amendments and shall adopt by 4/5-majority a modified text.

4. This text is *subject to voting by both the European Council and the European Parliament. Approval by the Council has to be by 4/5-majority*, while in the Parliament a 2/3 majority will be sufficient to approve the text.

After the adoption of the revised text by both the Council and the European Parliament, the modifications of the Constitution *will automatically become effective*.

Explications :

- As we are especially concerned by involving people into the procedure of revising the Constitution, it is important to take into account **national Parliaments** which are directly linked to Nation's citizens. So we decided to give the opportunity to a group of at least five national Parliaments to make a proposal for a revision of the Constitution.
- We wanted to install the possibility of a **popular petition**. Doing so, we preferred to let the citizens' demands pass by the intermediary of the European Parliament. This represents a threshold that is more difficult to achieve (as revising the Constitution should not be too easy), but nonetheless

attributes to the people a real possibility to demand the modification of their Constitution.

It is important that the signatories of a petition come from at least five different Member States, each Member State being represented by at least 0,5% of its population, so as to guarantee the representativeness of the demanded modification as well as to avoid any entrance into the Constitution of national interests.

- We stress the importance of the possibility of convening a **Convention** in order to modify the most important questions with respect to the Constitution.
In this way, and in the sense of higher legitimacy of the procedure, all levels of the European Union are included and have the right to express themselves; it thus no longer represents a pure interstate process being far from the citizens.
- The possibility of **deciding not to convene this Convention** by a 4/5-majority has been given to the Council in order to handle questions, which are less important, in a more efficient way.
Though, we prefer the 4/5-majority to the 2/3 one because the Council should not have to much power to reject the Convention.
- The modified texts have to be subject to voting by both the Council and the European Parliament in order to prevent intergovernmentalism within a procedure of important modifications. This way, it is guaranteed that the citizens participate in the whole procedure.
Concerning the Council, we proposed a 4/5-majority to adopt modifications, because it is important to give the opportunity to **revise the Constitution by majority voting** which is characteristic of constitutional revisions.
- We opt for the fact of modifications becoming automatically effective in view of a procedure which is less difficult, since the national levels are appropriately included in this procedure.

Article IV- 7 (Ex Article G) :

**Adoption, ratification and entry into force of
the
Treaty establishing the Constitution**

1. During the whole process of adoption of the Constitution, and especially before the intergovernmental conference, a *concern for information and internal debate* should be carried out by every Member State.
The ratification of the Constitution should be linked to a *referendum* in those Member States having the constitutional requirements to proceed in this way. Those States which do not know the referendum procedure should run an equivalent way. In each Member State, the procedure should take place the same day.
The Constitution shall then be ratified by the *Member States representing their people* in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic.
2. If one of the Member States decides not to sign or to ratify the Constitution, a *negotiation regarding a partnership between the aforesaid country and the Union is to start*.
3. *If the Member States ratifying the Constitution represent less than 2/3 of the global population of the European Union, it may not enter into force; the previous constitutional treaties will then stay in force.*
4. If at least 2/3 of the European people are represented by the ratifying countries, the *Constitution shall enter into force on*, or, failing that, on the first day of the month following the deposit of the instrument of ratification by the last signatory State to fulfil the condition of the established 2/3-threshold.
5. Consequently, the European Union starts *negotiations in order to finally establish partnership agreements* with those signing Member States that did not succeed in ratifying the aforesaid Constitution. Those will have a *privileged position for re-entering the European Union* within a further enlargement process.

Explications :

- As the Constitution aims improving transparency and establishing larger proximity to the citizens, we decided to foster States to promote internal information and debate. Further, in this direction, we wish to replace « Higher

Contracting Parties » by « **Member States representing their people** ».

- Since we believe in the high importance of a democratic procedure in adopting the Constitution, we see the referendum as the most appropriate means of ratification wherever possible. This referendum should place the same day for both **practical and symbolic reasons**.
- It is important to introduce a **procedure preventing that a minority of countries could impede** the entrance into force of the Constitution. Non-signing countries will have to retreat: they do not follow the evolutions of integration. Nonetheless, it has to be guaranteed that a strong tie is maintained between the Union and those no longer members, this being the idea of a negotiated **partnership**. The latter should not be limited to a free exchange and a monetary union, but must guarantee that the country non-ratifying/non-signing is no longer assigned any political weight within the European Union.
- If the Member States ratifying the Constitution represent **less than 2/3** of the global European population, the legitimacy of the Constitution is put into question whereas the whole Union will divide. In any such case it would be advisable to maintain the status quo.
- The choice of a **symbolic day** of entry into force would represent a strong sign for the European citizens. If the countries are not able to ratify the Constitution up to the planned date, we propose as a threshold 2/3 of the global European population (NB: that is the Union comprised of signatory countries, already taking into account the retreat of the non-signers), since this is sufficiently legitimated.
- What is to follow is a process of negotiations aiming at a partnership with the countries having signed, but not ratified the Constitution, since in our view such a process will be sufficient to accelerate the process of entry into force. The countries will then benefit from a privileged opportunity to re-enter the Union, but they will be obliged to present reasons and to institute a debate at the national level aiming at justifying their defection.

Identity

Part I Title I Definition and Objectives of the Union

1) Suggests the insertion of Article I-1.1. bis: *“The Union’s capitals are Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, the Union’s flag is a circle of twelve golden stars on a blue ground, the currency shall be the Euro, the anthem shall be the Ode of Joy from the Ninth Symphony by Ludwig van Beethoven, the 9th May is the Union’s commemoration day”*

2) Recommends, within article I-3.3 regarding the Union’s objectives, the incorporation of the wordings *“the promotion of ever higher standards of education and non-discrimination due to religious, educational, gender difference or any other form of discrimination”*. We are strongly conscious that this list is not exhaustive.

Hence, we suggest to insert an additional and fundamental sentence: *“The Union shall respect its rich cultural, religious and linguistic diversity”*.

4) Welcomes, within article I-8.2. about the citizenship of the Union, the addition of *“the right to citizens of the Union present in non-member states to seek protection in the embassies of any member state, even if their own country is already represented by its own embassy”*.

Part I Title VI Democratic life of the Union

1) Proposes, within article I-48, the insertion of *“the obligation for the European ombudsman to produce and transmit an annual report on his activities to the European Court of Justice, to the European Parliament, to the Commission and to the Council”*.

2) Suggests to erase article I-51 which should obviously be part of the Union’s values and objectives. Nevertheless, we are opposed to the precise reference to Christianity/Humanism or any other named religion in the preamble or in any other part of the constitution because it could become a source of discrimination towards other religions (a learning from European history). Indeed, the Union is first a Political Union made up by the diversity of cultures. Thus, each specific culture, history, religion must be respected within the European Union’s sphere.

3) Wishes, in Part III, Title VI, Chapter I, article III.227, that the European Parliament shall be granted the legislative initiative as part of the co-decision procedure. Thus, in this article, paragraph 3 becomes paragraph 4.

4) Referring to article I-44 about the principle of democratic equality, we recommend that in order to achieve democratic equality the member states should endeavour to promote in their population a common European identity especially through the means of national education systems. This promotion will enable the Union to remain in close proximity to its citizens and should be conducted in partnership with the other member states and the Union's institutions.

Part I Title IX Union Membership

1) Suggests, within article I-57, to emphasise that union membership should be open to any European State *“able to competently integrate into a European public sphere, promoting common European identity.”*

2) Recommends, within the article I-57.2, the requirement of a 2/3 majority in the Parliament for the accession of a new member State.

Part I Title IX Voluntary Withdrawal

Since the Working group on European identity considers that article I-59 does not guarantee sufficiently the stability of the future Union, the working group suggests that:

- 1) A member state may ask to withdraw from the Union only in the case of a reform of the Constitution or a substantial modification of the composition of the Union to which it is opposed.
- 2) This request, notified to the Commission, should require a consent of a majority of 2/3 in both Council and Parliament.
- 3) A state having withdrawn from the Union may not reapply for membership for at least 20 years.

Communication and Information

Considering the weak public appearance of the Union, the working group suggests to insert a seventh section titled "Communication and Information" in Part III, Title III, Chapter V. This would provide the necessary institutional setting of new "DG Public Relations" to carry out European public relation policies.

EU image in international relations

1) Wishes, within article 1-3.4. concerning the relations with the wider world, the precision of the promotion of Union's values on the international scene "*by the means of unified external action policies*". Obviously, the European identity must be promoted within the EU internal actions as well as towards its unifying role in the globalised external scene.

2) Suggests to strengthen the external image of the Union by amending article I-39.1 as following:

The European Union shall conduct a common foreign and security policy, "*aiming to promote peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding for cultural and religious differences*", based on the development of mutual political solidarity among Member States, the identification of questions of general interest and the achievement of an ever-increasing degree of convergence of Member States' actions.

3) Recommends to insert the following DRAFT proposal with regard to the Union's close neighbourhood:

- a) Inspired by the will of European peoples to entertain peaceful and co-operative relations with their neighbours, the Union acknowledges the presence of geographical regions with which there are common values and principles of social and international life are shared.
- b) In order to strengthen these bonds, the Union upholds the creation of a common set of rules fostering further co-operation and respecting national specific conditions.

SOCIAL EUROPE

Preamble

Unemployment, changing skill requirements, an ageing population, poverty – these are just some features characterising, to a different degree, several European countries. The social dimensions of the European economies have never seemed as fragile as they seem today, a fact which makes their maintenance and survival in quantitative as well as qualitative terms even more necessary. For these reasons, we, the student working group “Social Europe”, consider the reinforcement of the Social Europe one of the essential challenges to be faced in the making of the European Constitution.

More generally we consider necessary to create a close relation between social and economic integration within the EU. In the draft treaty, social policy is not stressed as strongly as are economic policy and employment policy.

More precisely, the working group “Social Europe”

- 1) Suggests that as mentioned in the Final report of Working Group XI on Social Europe the scope of the “Broad Economic Policy Guidelines [should] be extended to include social issues and be renamed the **Broad Economic and Social Policy Guidelines**” (CONV 516/1/03, WG XI 9);
- 2) Proposes to include into article I-11 (3), Title III, the **promotion and coordination** of social policies. Additionally, in article I-14 (4), Title III, where it says that “The Union *may* adopt initiatives to ensure coordination of Member States’ social policies”, we would firstly like to see the term *may* replaced by *shall*, and the adoption of **policy guidelines** should also be included.
- 3) Believes that **sustainable development** should not only be seen from the ecological angle but economic and social aspects need to be taken into account as well (see also CONV 516/1/03). Moreover, there should be a strong link between sustainable development and **regional welfare** and regional progress, since the changing of the mind starts at the individual and local or regional level.

With respect to equality aspects and justice as well as health issues the working group « Social Europe »

- 4) *Is pleased about the integration of the notions **equality and non-discrimination** in the new version*

of **Article I-2, Title I: the values of the Union**. It supports the numerous amendments having been made to this article;

- 5) Proposes to **include** the term “**social justice**” into phrase one of **Article 3** (values), as it represents one of the values for which Europe has its reputation throughout the world;
- 6) **Would like to see integrated in Article 3** (objectives) **the promotion of the fight against poverty**, and is in favour of making decent housing granted to all individuals a further objective of the European Union;
- 7) Suggests to **include into Article I-3 (3), Title I**, “the achievement of a **high level of mental and physical health** as a precondition of a well-functioning society shall be promoted; The promotion of health should as well be included in **(4)**, when referring to relations with the wider world.

Nonetheless, equality between men and women should be more stressed. Additionally, the integration of disabled persons must be assured. Moreover, the working group “Social Europe”

- 8) Emphasizes the importance of securing the **representation of minority groups** through the participation of national delegates (from national parliamentary commissions) at the COSAC, because we believe that there is a strong link between the **integration** of minorities and the degree of **internal cohesion**. Moreover, there must be **equality of opportunities** with respect to access to education and jobs. Translation services or the provision of **language courses** may facilitate these challenges.

More generally, the working group “Social Europe”

- 9) Supports the view expressed by the Presidium concerning **Article I-7, Title I: fundamental rights**, regarding the integration of the Charta into the second part of the treaty and attributing to it a legally binding value;

- 10) Approves the **inclusion of the open method of coordination** in the constitutional treaty as part of the non-legislative instruments at the disposition of the Union. Additionally, it considers necessary **the harmonisation of the evaluation procedures regarding national policies** in order to facilitate the search for best practices. This may then guarantee a better realisation of objectives envisaged at the community level, as stressed also in the final report of the working group Social Europe (CONV 516/1/03, WG XI 9);
- 11) Is pleased about the institutional recognition of the **importance** which is given to the European **social dialogue** and of the negotiation reflected in the new version of **Article I-47, Title I**. It encourages this development in particular with respect to the perspective of enlargement in order to provide the possibility of a genuine union activity at the community level to finally limit the phenomenon of social dumping.
- Nonetheless, the **social dialogue** and the **role of social partners** have to be clearly defined and reinforced. The role of employers and unions should be distinct from that played by the organized civil society (CONV 516/1/03, WG XI 9). A highly developed and a working system of social dialogue creates better preconditions for survival in the competition of global market.
- 12) Finds it very essential that measures promoting the inclusion of **civil society** in the making of social Europe will be developed;

Regarding labour market issues, the working group "Social Europe"

- 13) Considers essential the **recognition** at community level of all acquisitions with respect to **professional experience** of all individuals of all member countries in order to make of the **free movement of workers** more than a right existent on paper. It also assumes that the promotion of the study of **foreign languages** in all member states would facilitate this movement

by increasing individuals' flexibility necessary to respond sufficiently to the needs of both the labour market and the European citizens themselves, in particular the youth;

- 14) Believes that the skill requirements of the knowledge society necessitate an opportunity to equal access to **continuous education** (training) in order to make individuals capable of maintaining their **employability** during their working lives. Concerning the provision of this education, both firms and national governments should bear some responsibility. That is why we propose the inclusion into article 3 (objectives) the promotion of **lifelong learning**;
- 15) Would like to **enlarge the fundamental freedom of movement of persons** and the social rights to **non-EU-citizens** who have been residing legally in one of the member states for more than five years;
(Some of the members of the working group don't support this proposal for example because of fears of growing unemployment among EU-citizens)

Regarding **Article 99 in Part III** of the draft, the working group "Social Europe"

- 16) Regrets the limitation of fields for whom **qualified majority voting** is to be applied. The procedure **should be re-extended** to the fields of social policy previously agreed on;
- 17) Would like to add to it the following new fields: (l) housing and (m) childcare;
- 18) Suggests abolishing item (6).

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

I Monetary policy

The ECB should remain independent. Price stability shall remain the main target of the European Central Bank. Furthermore, particular consideration shall be given to macroeconomic variables, such as growth and a high level of employment, especially in periods of economic crisis. The group has agreed upon the necessity of a better coordination between fiscal policy and monetary policy.

In order to ensure a high level of accountability and transparency, the group has unanimously agreed upon the necessity of providing for the obligatory publication of the ECB minutes.

II Fiscal policy

The working group proposes for the future a harmonised fiscal policy, with the possibility of maintaining and introducing differentiated fiscal policies in the event of an asymmetric and idiosyncratic shock. The group strongly supports the statement of the official Economic Governance Working Group in its will to facilitate progress in the area of fiscal policies, not by establishing a unified system of taxation, but through a sufficient approximation of rates, minimum standards and tax bases in the area of indirect and company taxation.

The working group suggests that qualified majority vote in the guidelines of fiscal policy should be considered.

The group has also emphasised the importance of taking into account regional economic issues, with special attention to Target 1 Areas.

III Institutional issues

In order to facilitate cooperation and coordination of national fiscal policies, the group supports an institutional reform of the existing economic governance mechanism of the European Union. A European Finance Minister or a European Budgetary Council, both with guideline competences in fiscal policy, constitute possible solutions.

IV Stability and growth pact

The group has agreed upon the necessity of a more flexible interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact. The definition of an excessive deficit, as provided for in the Pact, shall have a component depending on the business cycle of the respective members state. The maximum level of an allowed deficit shall depend negatively on GDP growth.

Moreover, we recommend the adoption of the Golden Rule, which implies the deduction of net public investments from public expenditure.

DEFENCE

We agree with the general principles enunciated in the previous student convention. Those principles are the value of democracy, the respect of human rights, defence of freedom and peace keeping. Regarding the subject of defence we propose the following amendments:

Qualified Majority Voting in ESDP

It is necessary to substitute the system of voting in the European Council by a system of qualified majority voting equivalent to 2/3 of the member states and equal to 75% of the EU population.

We have come to this conclusion because the enlargement of the EU accentuates even more the differences between the member states. Therefore the criterion of the unanimity will block the process of decision making in the field of defence which is one of the subjects most discussed about.

Military Academy

A European Military Academy shall be established.

Such an Academy would not suppress national military colleges but complete the national trainings in order to let the European officers work together and share the same defence culture. With seminars and courses gathering servicemen, it will participate in the formation of a common defence culture and the practices guaranteeing coherence and efficiency.

Parliamentary Control for more Legitimacy

(1) Common expenses for military actions shall be paid by the EU common budget and not by the single member states.

This would enforce the parliamentary control on ESDP and give it a more democratic legitimacy

(2) A previous mandatory consultation of the EP shall be established in ESDP matters.

To reduce the democratic deficit especially in the field of defence issues an ex-ante control by the parliament is indispensable.

- (3) The foreign committee of the EP shall be divided into different working groups each of which deals with only one specialized area.

The AFET deals with many different topics. A division (e.g. in a committee for defence and one for foreign matters) would allow it to work more efficiently.

Neutral European States / Cooperation with UN

The cooperation between EU and UN shall be enforced.

This cooperation guarantees a better political approach to crisis. It improves the valuation of military and strategic options, strengthen the European military machine and make crisis management more credible and effective.

Mutual solidarity clause in defence

Regarding article 42 which deals with solidarity clause we insist on the fact that the solidarity clause shall be enlarged. This clause will cover all kinds of threats not only terrorism. In case of aggression every country is obliged to mutual assistance.

Mutual assistance is an essential element of the spirit of solidarity and the mutual attachment at the heart of the construction of Europe. The mutual defence clause must therefore not only be limited to incorporating the steps taken by some states in the WEU but must be generalized in order to encompass all the countries having ratified the Constitution. This solidarity principle must be the basis of a global defence policy. We exclude an explicit and exclusive reference to terrorist attacks that only constitute one of many threats against which Europeans must be protected.