

CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Brussels, 8 June 2000

9272/00 (Presse 203)

(OR. fr)

342-7

Fourth plenary meeting of the Convention to draw up a draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

(Brussels, 5 and 6 June 2000)

1. At its fourth plenary meeting, the Convention to draw up a draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, chaired by Mr Roman HERZOG and Mr Inigo MENDES de VIGO, worked for the first time on a full version of the forthcoming draft Charter.
2. Work began with a reminder of the latest occurrences in Spain and a minute's silence in memory of the victims of terrorism.
3. The agenda of the meeting was divided into two parts. On 5 June 2000, the members of the Convention conducted a general debate on the question of social rights and the horizontal clauses, on the basis of CHARTE 4316/00 CONVENT 34. This discussion, which allowed positions to be clarified, certainly brought out some divergence among members regarding ways to include the social rights in the Charter, but also allowed the Praesidium to note that of the members who expressed a point of view, a fairly large majority supported its approach.

4. On 6 June 2000, the members of the Convention met with a programme to examine the 600 or so amendments submitted on the Articles concerning civil and political rights and the rights of citizens. These amendments were assembled and arranged in a master document with the reference CHARTE 4332/00. At its earlier meetings, the Praesidium had looked at each of these amendments and attempted wherever possible to formulate compromise amendments that would take account of the essence of the submissions formulated, with the twofold aim of lightening the workload of the Convention and approaching a possible consensual formulation while not depriving any members of the Convention of the right to bring up at a meeting any of the amendments filed. These compromise amendments were distributed the day before the meeting, with the reference 4333/00 CONVENT 36. The proposed procedure gave rise to a general discussion which led Chairman Roman Herzog to sketch, for the future, outlines for submission of amendments to the Convention to meet the objections raised.

5. In conclusion, the Chairman noted that the discussions that had taken place in the Convention proved above all that the Convention had reached a crucial stage in the accomplishment of its mandate. He announced that at its next meeting on 19 June 2000, the Convention would be meeting representatives of the countries applying for accession. On 20 June 2000, the meeting would continue according to the planned schedule and programme. That meeting would take place at the premises of the Council of Ministers.

