

## CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

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### **Third plenary meeting of the Convention for the drawing up of a draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**

**(Brussels, 20 and 21 March 2000)**

1. During its third plenary meeting chaired by Mr MENDES de VIGO and Mr Gunnard JANSONN, the Convention held the second reading of certain civil and political rights as reformulated by the Praesidium to take account of the discussions held at informal meetings. That meeting enabled the first fifteen articles under this category of rights to be reviewed. The discussions were held on the basis of CHARTE 4149/00 CONVENT 13 and the list of written proposals for amendments sent to the Convention secretariat.
2. At the meeting, the Presidency announced that on 22 March the members of the Convention would receive electronically a new document recapitulating the proposed articles concerning citizens' rights. That document will be examined initially by the Convention's next meeting in the form of a working party on 27 and 28 March 2000.

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3. At the next meeting, in addition to that initial examination, discussions will be resumed on Articles 13 to 19 (see CHARTE 4137/00 CONVENT 8) which will bring to a conclusion the first reading of all the civil and political rights. To allow the Convention sufficient time to cover its agenda, it has been decided that its proceedings will resume in the afternoon of 28 March at 14.15.
4. An important aspect of the Convention's timetable of work was highlighted at the beginning of the meeting by Mr MENDES de VIGO following the meeting on 7 March in Paris between the members of the Praesidium and the French Minister with responsibility for European Affairs. In view of the future Presidency of the Union, the need to terminate the proceedings in time for the informal European Council meeting in Biarritz was put forward. That deadline, combined with that of the European Council meeting in June 2000 under the Portuguese Presidency, at which the submission of a first preliminary draft of the complete text is planned, leads the Convention to abide strictly by its advance timetable.
5. At the end of its meeting, the Convention agreed to meet again in plenary session on 5 and 6 June 2000.

