

RESOLUTION
of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland
of 2 October 2003
on the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe

Executing the will of the Nation, as confirmed in the referendum of 7-8 June 2003, requires Poland to take an active part in shaping the rules of European cooperation. We want to partake in creating the European Union as an alliance of sovereign states, which combines effective community mechanisms with respect for cultures and national identities. The Sejm of the Republic of Poland is in favour of maintaining the unanimity rule in relation to the most important, vital interests of the Member States.

Through a number of compromises, the majority of the Convention's objectives defined by the European Council in December 2001 in Laeken has been achieved. The Sejm believes that the future Constitutional Treaty will become the foundation of a strong, modern European Union, based on respect for the values and rights of every person, in which Poland will take its due place in the family of democratic, free and loyal nations.

The Sejm sees the following achievements of the Convention as particularly important: confirming the objectives, mission and values which determine the philosophy and practice of the integration of societies; including the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Treaty's constitutive part; a clear catalogue of competences; simplifying the legislative acts system and increasing the transparency and democracy of the Union's operations.

We are in favour of strengthening the role of the European Parliament and extending the scope of its co-decision power, as well as increasing the role of national parliaments which monitor the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The Sejm supports the government's position presented in the debate by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Sejm of the Republic of Poland has the following expectations of the Polish delegation to the Intergovernmental Conference:

- to demand a reference to Christian values in the preamble of the Constitutional Treaty;
- to recognise the Atlantic alliance as the basis of European security in the face of co-opting defence policy initiatives which compete with NATO;
- to fulfil the “one country – one commissioner” principle and the principle of collective presidency of the Council;
- to object to a deterioration of Poland’s position in the EU Council as compared with the principles adopted in 2000 in Nice, which had been known to Poles voting in the European referendum. In that respect, we demand the government to adopt a firm stance, including a veto, should our arguments fail to convince the Intergovernmental Conference of the European Union.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland appeals to the government to include the following words in Subsection 2, Aids granted by Members States, Article III – 56 (2c) of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe: aid granted to economies of certain regions affected by the post-WW2 division of Europe, in the scope necessary to compensate for the negative economic consequences caused by this division.

Poland’s participation in the historical act of creating a united Europe is the crowning achievement of an enormous national effort undertaken after 1989. Responsibility towards future generations forces us to use this historical opportunity, which means the requirement to better adapt our country to accession and to benefit from the European Union.

Marshal of the Sejm: pp. Tomasz Nałęcz