# EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

## 21$^{ST}$ MEETING

**27 November 2003, Brussels**

### RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 21$^{st}$ meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels, 27 November 2003

Resolution on the ***The "Draft Constitution for Europe" and the implications for the EEA***
co-rapporteurs Mrs Diana WALLIS (ELDR, United Kingdom) and Mr Vidar BJØRNSTAD (Labour Party, Norway) adopted unanimously.

# RESOLUTION

## On "The Draft Constitution for Europe" and its implications for the EEA[1]

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

A.      In accordance with its task laid out by the EEA Agreement (Article 95, paragraph 4)

B.      Having regard to the EEA Agreement and in particular Article 128

C.      Having regard to the Laeken Declaration from 15 December 2001

D.      Having regard to the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council from 12-13 December 2002

F.      Having regard to the Assent to be obtained from the European Parliament to the enlargement of the EEA to bring in the Acceding Countries

G.      Having regard to the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, prepared by the Convention on the Future of Europe, submitted to the President of the European Council in Rome on 18 July 2003

H.      Having regard to the Conclusions of the 20th meeting of the EEA Council in Luxembourg on 14 October 2003

I       Having regard to the Resolution on the Future of an enlarged Europe, adopted at the 20th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the EEA in Ålesund, 20 May 2003


1.      notes the result of the Convention and acknowledges the efforts to increase democracy and transparency within the EU and to improve decision- and policy making;

2.      calls on the contracting parties to seek swift ratification of the EEA enlargement agreement to allow simultaneous EU and EEA enlargement, and to secure the continued functioning of the EEA Agreement to the benefit of all 28 EEA members after enlargement;

3.      notes with interest that the European Union might have an official voice in the world, and that it could be represented in international organizations and

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[1] The title of the resolution reflects the title of the draft Treaty presented by the Convention on the Future of Europe to the Intergovernmental Conference.

meetings, and expects that when the European Union speaks in international fora, the voices of smaller European partners outside the EU will be given sufficient opportunity to make their positions known;

4.  urges, in view of the dismantling of the pillars, that all parties make proper efforts to determine the relevance for the EEA of specific measures, especially in cases where legislative proposals have a wide scope of effect;

5.  notes that the decision to enable comitology procedures will be taken by qualified majority, rather than unanimity, and that any consequent increase in use of the comitology procedure would strengthen the possibility for EEA EFTA States to shape decisions;

6.  welcomes the consideration of the Union's Immediate Environment, expects that as commercial and political relations strengthen between the EU, the EEA EFTA States and their new neighbours, there will be an incentive to remove technical barriers to trade, to harmonize technical standards and to establish mechanisms for mutual recognition of testing and certification procedures, and urges that such efforts should be pursued along parallel tracks by the EU and EFTA;

7.  notes the slightly increased role of national parliaments in the legislative process on the EU side, noting the lack of a corresponding function for the EEA EFTA States on their side, and calls on their national parliaments to consider ways of achieving similar checks on the principle of subsidiarity concerning EEA legislation;

8.  calls on the Contracting Parties to initiate a technical update of the EEA Agreement, flecting Treaty changes, in order to safeguard the homogeneity of the Internal  Market throughout the entire EEA.

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