Basic information

2001/2022(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union **Subject** 8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences 8.20.06 Institutional reform and enlargement	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	MÉNDEZ DE VIGO Íñigo (PPE-DE) SEGURO António José (PSE)	24/01/2001 24/01/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	BROK Elmar (PPE-DE)	27/02/2001
BUDG Budgets	COLOM I NAVAL Joan (PSE)	27/02/2001
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	PACIOTTI Elena Ornella (PSE)	27/02/2001
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	WESTENDORP Y CABEZA Carlos (PSE)	24/04/2001
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	ATTWOOLL Elspeth (ELDR)	15/02/2001
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS María Soraya (PSE)	26/02/2001

PECH	Fisheries	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE-DE)	06/03/2001
RETT	Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT	Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	O'TOOLE Barbara (PSE)	06/03/2001
FEMM	Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	27/02/2001
PETI	Petitions	WYN Eurig (V/ALE)	06/03/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2356	2001-06-11

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/05/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
03/05/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0168/2001	
30/05/2001	Debate in Parliament		
31/05/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0301/2001	Summary
31/05/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/06/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
21/02/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2022(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/5/14520

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0168/2001	03/05/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0301/2001 OJ C 047 21.02.2002, p. 0015-0108 E	31/05/2001	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	06879/2001	06/04/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2001)0178	25/04/2001	Summary

The Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union

2001/2022(INI) - 31/05/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament approved the resolution by Mr Iñigo MENDEZ DE VIGO (EPP-ED, E) and Mr António José SEGURO (PES, P) however it should be noted that it regrets profoundly that the Treaty of Nice has provided a half-hearted and in some cases inadequate response to the matters encompassed within the already modest Intergovernmental Conference agenda. (Please refer to the previous document). Moreover, the Parliament hopes that the deficits and shortcomings with regard to the establishment of an effective and democratic European Union can be dealt with in the course of the post-Nice process. The Parliament also emphasises the point that Union decision-making has become more confused and less transparent, that the principle of existing codecision to cover all the matters in which legislation is adopted by a qualified majority has not followed and that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union has not been incorporated into the Treaties. The new IGC should be based on a radically different process which is transparent and open and it should initiate a constitutional development. With regard to the proposed make-up of the European Parliament, the Parliament itself deplores the fact that this does not follow any clear logic. It expresses its surprise at the decision to exceed the limit of 700 Members laid down at Amsterdam. In addition, the House regrets the fact that the pillar structure of the treaty has been retained and that, above all in the sphere of the CFSP, unnecessary duplicate structures have established. It calls for the tasks of the Commissioner with responsibility for external relations and the High Representative for the CFSP to be placed in the hands of a Commission Vice-President with specific obligations vis-à-vis the Council.

The Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union

2001/2022(INI) - 11/06/2001

While respecting the will of the Irish people, Ministers expressed their regret at the results of the Irish referendum on the Treaty of Nice. They ruled out any reopening of the text signed in Nice. The ratification of the Treaty will continue on the basis of the text and in accordance with the agreed timetable. The Fourteen expressed their readiness to contribute in every possible way to help the Irish government find a way forward, taking into account the concerns reflected by this result, without re-opening the text of the Nice Treaty.

The Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union

2001/2022(INI) - 25/04/2001 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: To present Commission proposal on targeted and timely arrangements for the debate on the future of the European Union. CONTENT: The Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) responsible for drawing up the Treaty of Nice recognises that the Treaty itself does not significantly reform the EU Treaties. Rather it makes a number of adjustments to the Treaties to allow for a smooth enlargement of the European Union. In order to further the reform process, the IGC adopted the "Declaration on the future of the Union". This declaration calls for a "deeper and wider debate about the future

development of the European Union." It also envisages a three pronged process: 1. A period of open reflection commencing in 2001; 2. A period of structured reflection as from 2002; 3. The calling of a new Intergovernmental Conference in 2004. Subjects for debate during the period of reflection should focus on: - The delineation of powers between the European Union and the Member States; - The status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; - The simplification of the Treaties; and - The role of national Parliaments within Europe. The key element in these discussions is how to involve as much as possible European citizens. The IGC is anxious that comments should not be restricted to government officials and Parliaments. Given the far reaching changes implicated in the IGC there is a perceived need to address the fundamental issues with as wide an audience as possible. The Commission, given past experience, and its institutional role, believes it is in a unique position to facilitate a co-ordinated, effective campaign. Past experience working on the "Dialogue on Europe" is presented as a good reason to entrust the Commission with the organisation of the new "Debate on the future of the European Union". Furthermore a budget line, B3-306 which aims to offer information to EU civilians such as the euro, enlargement etc. already exists. Organising an information strategy on the future of Europe under this budget heading would be both appropriate and natural. The Commission recognises that the key criteria for a successful, all inclusive debate, depends on: - A bottom-up, citizens-driven approach; - Regular contributions from politicians and senior officials; - An efficient feedback mechanism to ensure that contributions from citizens and other interested parties is channelled back to the political level for information and reaction. In light of the above the Commission proposes the following specific actions for the year 2001: - The development of a "Future of Europe" website; - The establishment of discussion forums on the web; - Internet chats; - Active involve of the Commission's relays all over Europe; - Active involvement of the media; - Inter-active cross-border events (e.g video conferences); - Involvement of schools in the Member States and applicant countries; - Preparing and translating summaries of meetings, discussionsand chats; - Organisation of tenders; - Preparation of electronic mail system; - Preparation of the necessary budget and human resources for a larger operation as from 2002 onwards.

The Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union

2001/2022(INI) - 06/04/2001 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This document presents the report from the European Council to the European Parliament on the progress achieved by the European Union in 2000. In its last written annual report submitted to the European Parliament, the European Council concluded by expressing its confidence that the Union, building on the solid progress achieved in 1999, would prove equal to the various challenges that lay before it. Developments in 2000 under the Portuguese and French presidencies clearly demonstrated that that note of optimism was well-founded, with the Union simultaneously consolidating and building on previous achievements and showing its capacity to strike out in new directions in response to new situations. Progress achieved was underpinned by the ability of the Institutions to work closely together in the pursuit of commonly-shared objectives and served, moreover, to highlight even more closely than hitherto the role of the European Council in providing the Union with the necessary impetus for its development. Thus, the Intergovernmental Conference was brought to a successful conclusion with the agreement on a draft Treaty of Nice, a precondition for future enlargement of the Union. The enlargement process itself was marked by a stepping up of accession negotiations with the candidate countries. The Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy continued to be developed, with particularly significant advances made in forging a common security and defence policy intended to strengthen the Union's contribution to international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter. Areas of direct and particular importance for the well-being of the citizen also remained uppermost in the Union's mind, as borne out, in particular, by the adoption of a strategy for turning the Union into the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. Intensive negotiations on the institutional issues left open at the Amsterdam European Council but needing to be resolved given the prospect of a Union with almost double the present membership resulted in the overall agreement on a new draft Treaty in Nice in December 2000. This new Treaty, negotiated on the basis of the brief laid down at the Cologne, Helsinki and Santa Maria da Feira European Councils, strengthens the legitimacy, effectiveness and public acceptability of the Union's Institutions; once ratified, the Union will have completed the institutional changes necessary for the accession of new Member States. The key reforms introduced by the draft Nice Treaty are interconnected and are four-fold. The Commission will, from 2005, consist of only one national from each Member State; in future, when the Union reaches 27 Member States, it will contain fewer members than the number of Member States, with nationals from Member States chosen according to a rotational systems based on the principle of equality. The powers of the President of the Commission have also been reinforced. As from 2005, the dual nature of the Union as the Union of peoples and a Union of states will be further underlined in qualified majority voting. Moreover, qualified majority voting has also been extended to around afurther 40 Treaty provisions, inclusing such important areas as the common commercial policy, asylum and immigration policy and cohesion. Lastly, they agreed that a new Intergovernmental Conference should be convened in 2004. The enlargement process itself remained a top of political priority for the Union. The year 2000 saw very considerable progress achieved through the stepping up of the accession negotiations. All areas of the acquis, except covering the Institutions, i.e 29 in all, have been opened with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia and between 13 and 17 closed provisionally. As far as Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria were concerned, negotitiations were opened in February. Beyond enlargement, the European Union continued to affirm its presence both on the wider European scene and further afield in pursuit of its foreign policy objectives. Other issues of importance include: confirming the role of the Secretary-General/High Representative for CFSP; establishing the Common European Security and Defence Policy; issues affecting the citizens; the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European union; Justice and Home Affairs; food safety; immediate measures to combat BSE; economic and social development; the ten-year strategy intended to transform the Union into the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more an better jobs and greater social cohesion and lastly, the adoption of the European Social Agenda.