

NOTE

from : Polish Delegation
dated : 24 July 2007
to : Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)
Subject : **IGC 2007**
Statement by Ms Anna E. Fotyga, Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs,
on the occasion of the opening of the Intergovernmental Conference

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(Brussels, 23 July 2007)

1. Poland welcomes the compromise reached at the meeting of the European Council on 21 to 23 June 2007. I would stress that it was Poland's aim to streamline procedures. The results achieved will enable the EU's ambitious objectives to be fully realised.
2. Poland fully accepts the draft mandate adopted and expects the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to be conducted smoothly in its fullest possible dimension in accordance with the principles laid down in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. In particular, Poland expects the text of the Reform Treaty to be finally adopted at a separate meeting of the Conference to be attended by Member States' delegations at the level of Heads of State or Government.
3. Poland takes the view that the smooth conduct of the IGC requires the full implementation of the mandate. By this we mean that the transfer of the mechanism provided for in Declaration No 5 annexed to the Final Act of the 2004 Intergovernmental Conference should also be applied, as specified in paragraph 13 of the mandate, by being included in the text of the Treaty.

4. At the same time we would point out that, in Poland's opinion, the term "reasonable time", as used in the text of the aforementioned Declaration, and which was suggested in the course of negotiations to refer to a period of two years, will, following analyses, be interpreted as the time required to reach a consensus. I would stress that Poland considers that the retention in the Treaty of the reinforced Ioannina mechanism constitutes a common achievement which will help Member States to reach better decisions. Account should be taken not only of the fact that procedures ought to be effective, but also of the idea that the reinforced Ioannina mechanism should enable deeper consideration to be given to the doubts expressed by Member States, allow agreement to be reached, display a degree of flexibility and encourage decisions to be adopted rationally.
5. With reference to the first subparagraph of paragraph 13 of the mandate, I would point out that Poland interprets this provision of the mandate as meaning that the relevant article of the Treaty will clarify without doubt that, from 2014 to 2017, in the event of a request for a recalculation of votes and the application of the procedure in accordance with the system as currently defined in Article 205(2) TEC, such a request will be granted automatically without the need for separate decisions in that connection.
6. With reference to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, Poland abides by its statement concerning the possibility of joining the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the- Protocol. A final decision will be taken during the Intergovernmental Conference following completion of an analysis of the possible consequences of the provisions of the Charter for Poland's national law.

