

CONCLUSIONS OF THE  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF  
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

CORK, 10/11 May, 1990.

The representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Community Member States' parliaments and of the European Parliament met in Cork, at the invitation of Mr. Sean Treacy, TD, Ceann Comhairle of Dail Eireann, and in accordance with the conclusions of the Paris Conference, on 10 and 11 May, 1990, under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Barry, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Secondary Legislation of the European Communities.

1. The Conference adopted the following conclusions, which shall be transmitted to the Presidents of the National and European Parliaments;

- (i) It welcomed the decision of the recent special meeting of the European Council in Dublin to initiate an examination of the need for possible changes to the Community Treaties with, inter alia, the aim of strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the European Union.
- (ii) In order to remedy the democratic deficit in the European Community it considers that there is a need to define more specifically the principle of subsidiarity and to clearly establish the respective competences, in particular, the legislative competences of the National and European Parliaments.
- (iii) It welcomed the principle of holding a Inter-Parliamentary Conference ("European Assizes") in Italy with representative of National Parliaments and the European Parliament and recommends that members of the European Affairs Committees be fully represented in the delegations from National Parliaments.
- (iv) It considered it necessary that a restricted meeting be held in July with a view to preparing for this Conference.

2 . The Inter-Parliamentary Conference of European Affairs Committees also decided with a view to its future work that

- the Conference should meet at least once during each Presidency
- the Presidents of the specialised committees should meet to coordinate and prepare the work of the Conference
- delegations to the Conference should be encouraged to submit papers in advance of the Conference outlining the position in respect of items on the agenda of the Conference
- bilateral exchanges between the specialised Committees of National Parliaments and the European Parliament should be stepped up
- supports the proposal of the European Parliament that a feasibility study should be initiated into means of pooling information concerning the progress of scrutiny of European affairs in the National Parliaments and the European Parliament.