





Moreover, the four leaders propose that the Convention should accept the concept of a Euro

well as operations conducted by the European Union under the auspices of the United Nations.

- ◆ The creation, by June 2004 at the latest, of a European command for strategic air transport, available for European and NATO operations. The A400Mi

with SHAPE, including its possible use to support DSACEUR in his role as a primary candidate to command EU-led operations having recourse to NATO assets and capabilities.

- ◆ In this spirit and until such a capability will have been created by the European Union, interested states will establish a nucleus of a collective capability which, instead of national means, they would make available to the EU for operational planning and command of EU-led operations without recourse to NATO assets and capabilities. Such a pooling of resources would avoid national duplications and significantly improve interoperability. The decision on the creation of such a capability could be taken by the end of the year with all the interested states, with a view to its installation in Tervuren during the summer of 2004.  
This point appears to be one of the most important priorities of the Belgian government.
- ◆ With a view to improving command and control capabilities available to the European Union as well as to NATO, the four Defence Ministers will take the necessary steps to establish, not later than 2004, a multinational deployable force headquarters for joint operations, building on existing deployable headquarters.

<http://diplobel.fgov.be/en/press/homedetails.asp?TEXTID=6453>)

8. Belgium pleads also for the strengthening of the European pillar of NATO and cautiously does not want to damage the transatlantic relations. The conclusions of the mini-summit do not forget to recall that “the transatlantic partnership remains an essential strategic priority for Europe. This partnership is a necessary condition for security and world peace”.

### **III. Proposals brought to the European Convention by Belgian representatives with regard to CFSP/ESDP issues**

9. The Belgian contribution to the Convention concerning the missions, powers and instruments of the Union has been published on 13 May 2002. This paper recalls most of the elements mentioned above, namely in reaffirming the Union's identity on the international scene and promoting, in its international relations, security, peace, international co-operation, as well as improving fairness in trade and finance.

<http://diplobel.fgov.be/fr/press/homedetails.asp?TEXTID=202>)

<http://diplobel.fgov.be/en/press/homedetails.asp?TEXTID=203>)

10. Other proposals initiated by Belgium on the institutional aspects of the EU have been aggregated in the Memorandum of the Benelux entitled “A balanced institutional framework for an enlarged, more effective and more transparent Union” (4 December 2002).

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Furthermore, the Benelux favours maintaining rotation on the level of the European Council and specialised councils. The Benelux will in any case never accept a President elected from outside Council.

11. Belgium pleads for the extension of the use of the QMV and is very concerned by the lack of progress on this question during the last European Council.  
([http://www.europa.eu.int/futurum/documents/other/oth190603\\_fr.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/futurum/documents/other/oth190603_fr.pdf))
12. The Belgian positions have been recalled in the last Contribution of the Benelux, « The institutions of the Union », presented by MM. Gijs de Vries, Jacques Santer and Louis Michel, transmitted to the general secretariat of the Convention in May 2003 (CONV 732/03 – CONTRIB 320).

#### **IV. Mapping of activities in CFSP-related research**