

## **Laeken European Council Summit (14-15 December 2001)**

### **Presidency Conclusions (Extract)**

#### **I. THE FUTURE OF THE UNION**

##### **The Laeken declaration**

3. Following the conclusions adopted in Nice, the European Council adopted the declaration set out in Annex I. That declaration and the prospects it opens mark a decisive step for the citizen towards a simpler Union, one that is stronger in the pursuit of its essential objectives and more present in the world. In order to ensure that preparation for the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference is as broadly-based and transparent as possible, the European Council has decided to convene a Convention, with Mr V. Giscard d'Estaing as Chairman and Mr G. Amato and Mr J.L. Dehaene as Vice-Chairmen. All the candidate countries will take part in the Convention. In parallel with the proceedings of the Convention, a Forum will make it possible to give structure to and broaden the public debate on the future of the Union that has already begun.