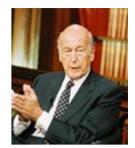






HEARING FROM EUROPE

lundi 23 juin 2003 - vendredi 27 juin 2003 - Belgium and 27 other countries





AT A GLANCE

Between June 23rd and June 27th *Friends of Europe* held the first Europe-wide debate on reforming and streamlining the EU institutions and its decision-making mechanisms.

Hearing from Europe linked all 28 countries participating in the convention through a series of **seven high-profile videoconferences** across the continent in partnership with leading think-tanks.

This event, organised in partnership with the European Commission and T-Systems, enjoyed the full support of the Secretariat of the European Convention, and Convention President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and *Friends of Europe* trustee and Convention Vice-President Jean-Luc Dehaene, both took part in the debates and answered questions from audience members around Europe.

Advanced **satellite** technology allowed groups of four countries to engage in debate at any one time. The resulting **TV quality images** were broadcast daily by Europe by Satellite (EbS) and all debates could be viewed **LIVE on the Internet.**

Highlights, in **written and videoclip format**, can still be found under the proceedings section of this site or by clicking <u>here</u>.

The Issues:

While Friends of Europe gave plenty of leeway for speakers to determine the issues to be debated, a clear framework was provided for the issues addressed. Coming just after the Tessaloniki smmit, the Convention's final report was high on the agenda, and Friends of Europe suggested to its partner think-tanks that debate should focus on **four questions:**

- I How could national parliaments have a greater say in EU decision-making?
- What is the European Union for in the 21st Century?
- Does the EU need two heavyweight leaders?
- How could EU reform help it to deliver on its economic promise?

