



CONFERENCE

T-Systems

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 [here](#).

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 Tessaaloniki summit, 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**:

- | 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?

