

Working Group I

26 September 2003 – Inaugural Meeting

The Working Group inaugurates and unanimously elects Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Raschauer as vice-chairman. After discussing the strategic steps of the Working Group and the delimitation from the other Working Groups, the chairman asks the members to present their views on the mandate.

8 October 2003 – 2nd Meeting

The chairman summarizes the statements. The Working Group then broadly discusses the scope and purpose of the tasks and aims of the federal state. They debate the question of fundamental tasks of the state and the transfer of tasks of the federal state.

15 October 2003 – 3rd Meeting

The members debate the normative effects of aims of the federal state and whether new aims of the federal state should be included in the Constitution. Afterwards, the discussions based on specific examples are continued.

21 October 2003 – 4th Meeting

The Working Group discusses the topic “neutrality”, the aim “overall economic equilibrium” and a proposal for a text on “services of general interest”.

29 October 2003 – 5th Meeting

The Working Group discusses the topics “education” and “Sunday and holiday observance”.

10 November 2003 – 6th Meeting

The Working Group continues its discussions on the topics “education” and “vital public service functions” as aims of the federal state.

19 November 2003 – 7th Meeting

The Members discuss the aim “comprehensive environmental protection” and proposals for texts about “social security” and “labour”.

26 November 2003 – 8th Meeting

The Working Group discusses how to formulate the aim “comprehensive environmental protection” and a proposal for an “economic aim of the federal state” and for “vital public service functions”.

10 December 2003 – 9th Meeting

The members discuss the aim “overall economic equilibrium” after a speech of the expert Mag. Manfred Lödl. Afterwards the question of a preamble and a proposal for a text about “social security” are discussed.

14 January 2004 – 10th Meeting

The Working Group discusses the aim “permanent neutrality” in connection with the aim “universal national defence”. Furthermore they talk about the aims “comprehensive environmental protection” and “equal treatment of men and women”. Finally the members discuss the draft of the report of the Working Group and work it through according to the items of the mandate.

21 January 2004 – 11th Meeting

The Working Group discusses the text proposals for various aims of the state put forward by the members of the Working Group and the requests of the civil societies which they put forward in the hearings in the plenary sessions on 21 November and 15 December 2003. The question of a preamble is also debated.

27 January 2004 – 12th Meeting

The Working Group discusses the partial report and continues its debates on the aims of state “ethnic groups”, “incorporation of social partnership in the constitution” and “protection of ethnic minorities”.

11 February 2004 – 13th Meeting

The Working Group discusses the requests of the civil societies presented in the plenary session on 26 January 2004 and basically debates the integration of aims of the state and their normative quality. Afterwards, the members discuss the final version of the report.

Additional Mandate

18 June 2004 – 14th Meeting

As first part of the additional mandate, the Working Group discusses the aim “universal national defence” after a presentation of representatives of the Army Reform Commission.

6 October 2004 – 15th Meeting

The Working Group discusses the aim “universal national defence” and whether to stipulate the citizens of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire and Southern Tyrol in the Constitution.