

## Working Group III

### **11 September 2003 – Inaugural Meeting**

The Working Group inaugurates and unanimously elects MP Dr. Ulrike Baumgartner-Gabitzer as vice-chairperson. The members of the Working Group are asked to work out a short written draft until 26 September stating which points the Working Group should focus on in their view and what positions they take.

### **14 October 2003 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group debates the topics “legislation of the federal state” with the sub-topics “number of members of the National Council”; “right to vote”; “set-up of the National Council”; “Federal Council” and the “steps leading to federal legislation”. From the sphere “executive power of the federal state” they discuss the “role of the Austrian President”.

### **11 November 2003 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group discusses the topics “federal government”, “legislation and administration of the provinces” and questions concerning the “municipalities”.

### **20 November 2003 – 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group discusses questions concerning federal state, provincial diets and municipalities mutually, such as agreements between federal state and provincial diets or the creation of common institutions. The members debate the constitutional autonomy of the provincial diets, the relation between legislative versus executive branch of government (principle of legality), and the participation of Austrian institutions in the nomination of members to EU-institutions. They discuss in detail the “number of members of the National Council” and questions concerning the “right to vote”.

### **16 December 2003 – 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group debates in detail the “elections to the National Council”, the “set-up of the National Council”, the “Federal Council”, the “steps leading to federal legislation” and the

“participation of the legislative branch in the executive branch of government”. Furthermore, the members talk about the “formulation of political demands and objectives”, the “rules of procedure and responsibilities of the federal government” and questions concerning the “legislative and executive powers of the provincial diets”. The Praesidium of the Convention is asked to state whether the role of the Austrian President is discussed now or after the presidential elections.

### **7 January 2004 – 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group debates in detail the “tasks of the Austrian President”, “questions concerning the municipalities, questions concerning federal state, provincial diets and municipalities mutually”, the “constitutional autonomy of the provincial diets”, the “relation between legislative versus executive branch of government” and the “participation of Austrian institutions in the nomination of members to EU-institutions”. For the first time, clause 23a (election of members of the European Parliament) and clause 23e of the Federal Constitution (participation of the National Council and the Federal Council in the national decision-making process regarding plans of the European Union) are discussed.

### **30 January 2004 – 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group agrees that the chairman will revise the final report according to the results of the meeting. Afterwards he will forward the report to the Praesidium of the Austrian Convention.

## **Additional Mandate**

### **31 August 2004 – 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group discusses how to proceed with the additional mandate.

### **21 September 2004 – 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Working Group finishes the discussions on the additional mandate.