Document Database on EU Treaty Negotiations

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Introduction

Welcome to the Database on EU Treaty Negotiations! This database holds all official documents from the Intergovernmental Conferences (IGCs) that led to the Maastricht (1992), Amsterdam (1999), Nice (2003), the European Convention and the Constitutional Treaty (2004) and the documents from the European Convention. The 1919 documents are original primary sources authored by the actors involved in the negotiations. These include member states' governments and supranational institutions such as the European Parliament and the European Commission.

The database was established at the ☞ University of Konstanz / Chair of International Relations and Conflict Management as part of the DFG-funded project on Constitutional Evolution in the European Union. For any questions or remarks, please, do not hesitate to ✍ contact us.

The database comprises all official documents published during the negotiations by the Council Secretariat and comes from different sources, as described below. Compared to existing databases the added value is the following:

- We provide a user-friendly search form which allows you to systematically gather documents of interest. Search criteria includes, but is not limited to, author, year, the individual IGCs, and the document titles or their document numbers.

- The search results can be downloaded as a zip-file. Additionally, an automatically generated csv-file summarises the information on all downloaded documents for further documentation.

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- We provide most documents in pdf, rtf, and txt formats. The latter two facilitate further processing by means of computer-assisted text analysis tools such as ☞ Wordscores, ☞ Wordfish etc.

- We cross-checked the documents provided by the ☞ European Council Archives for completeness with other EU Treaty-related databases and projects, such as Weidenfeld (1994; 1998; 2005), the ☞ "European Constitutions" project at the University of Zaragoza, the ☞ European Navigator and the archives of the Permanent Representations of individual Member States to the EU. Following this, we claim that we offer the most comprehensive database on EU Treaty negotiations and officially published documents.

In the following we give some information on the database and specificities of the documents included.

The Search Form

The search function of the database should be intuitive. Nevertheless, in what follows, we provide a detailed description of the search criteria.
In case you would like to see all documents contained in the database, simply hit the "search" button.
For specific purposes, the search form allows for a fine-grained search according to different criteria, which are explained in the following:

Treaty
Search for documents from the negotiations on specific treaties. These are

- Maastricht Treaty (228 documents)

- Amsterdam Treaty (441 documents)

- Nice Treaty (152 documents)

- European Convention (1058 documents)

- Constitutional Treaty (70 documents)

Author Type
The database holds documents from various authors. "Author Type" groups types of authors:

- Member State: All member states of the EU during the respective treaty negotiation. Even though Austria, Finland and Sweden entered the EU only in 1995, they are categorized as mem-

ber states during all IGCs. It is possible to differentiate by papers authored, by national governments and national parliaments.

- Candidate Country: Countries of the 2004 / 2007 Eastern Enlargement round: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland (plus Turkey). It is possible to differentiate by papers authored, by national governments and national parliaments.

- Supranational Actor: This comprises the European Parliament, (individual) Members of the European Parliament, European Commission, Council Presidency, Committee of the Regions, (Council) Secretary General, the European Central Bank or the European Ombudsman.

- Others: Other authors are mostly non-governmental organisations. Only in rare cases (i.e. during the Nice IGC) are documents of NGOs published under an official IGC document number.

Author
Apart from the above, broad search for author types, specific authors may be searched for directly too. Just choose the author of interest from the list. Press the Ctrl-key to select more than one author at a time.

Year
Choose documents published by year. The database holds documents from 1989 to 2004. Press the Ctrl-key to select more than one year at a time.

Country
Choose documents authored by a specific country (Member State or Candidate Country). Press the Ctrl-key to select more than one country at a time.

Document Type
Typically, published documents are written contributions. Only during the European Convention of 2003, were speeches published.

Language
Most documents are published in English, while some exist only in French, German or other languages (this last option concerns only five documents in total). When an English version was available, the document was included in English only.

Title and Document Number
This field allows one to search the database for words in the documents' titles or documents' num-

bers. Because of the design of the database, document numbers have to be searched for as follows: To retrieve document "CONV 476/03", search for "476.03", to retrieve CONFER 4717/00 search for 4714.00 (i.e., omit the "CONV" / "CONF" and replace the "/" with a ".").

Search Results

The output screen lists all documents found for the given search criteria. The list may be sorted by clicking on the column titles. The last column shows the file formats in which documents are available.

Download Documents

Most documents are available in three formats: pdf, rtf and txt. Individual documents may be downloaded by clicking on one of the format symbols in the last column of the output screen. Multiple documents can be selected in the first column and downloaded as a zip-file. When downloading documents in a zip-file, the documents are included in all available file formats. In addition, the zip- file contains an automatically generated csv-file named "documents", which summarizes the downloaded documents.

Specifics

- File Names The title of the downloaded documents is based on the official EU document number. It consists of the document number and its year of publication. For example, document "CONV 476/03" has file name "476.03".

- Multiple Authors If the document is published by more than one author, the zip file includes as many versions of the document as authors exist.

Further Information on the Documents

Sources
As indicated above, documents were collected from different sources: Most were taken from the website of the ☞ European Council Archives. In a special section, the Council Archives make available documents for the Amsterdam and Nice IGCs, as well as the European Convention / Rome IGC. We compared the documents provided by the European Council Archives with other databases and identified documents not provided by the Council Archives. Therefore, those documents were provided by

the Archives upon request or collected from other sources. The respective sources of the documents are indicated in the search results as Consilium (Website of the European Council Archives), EU-Archive (unpublished document provided for by the European Council Archives upon request) and Weidenfeld (from the compilation of Weidenfeld 2005, 1998, 1994). Very few documents were only available at sources indicated as Unizar ("European Constitutions" project at the University of Zaragoza), and European Navigator. Conversion of documents from pdf- to rtf-/txt-format The documents were collected in pdf-format. To allow for computer-based text analyses, documents were converted to rtf- and txt-formats (as far as this was possible). For this purpose we used the ☞ Yoshikoder-Converter and the OCR function of Acrobat Professional respectively. Due to the conversion from pdf-format to other formats we had to delete cover notes, footers and page numbers; in a very small number of documents we also had to remove graphs and tables as well. Therefore we created headers with the most important information from the header and footnotes. This header is written in the following format:

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#document number – date – country – title#
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Information on the Individual Treaties

- Maastricht Treaty: The 228 documents of the Maastricht Treaty were provided by the Archives of the Council of the European Union upon request. These documents have until now not been published in a comprehensive manner and we provide the first compilation. The Maastricht documents exist only in French. Due to the bad quality of the scans, we unfortunately cannot provide rtf- and txt-files.

- Amsterdam Treaty: During the Amsterdam IGC 411 documents were published. Many documents were available from the Council Archive only upon request. The database provides full coverage of all documents in all formats.

- Nice Treaty: During the Nice IGC, 152 documents were published and most of the documents come from the European Council Archive. Compared to other IGCs, the number of documents is surprisingly small. To confirm that we have all documents, we validated the documents identified in our project with the European Council Archives.

- European Convention: During the European Convention 1058 documents were published. The negotiations are very well documented on the ☞ website of the European Convention. In comparison to the official Website, our database provides a more comprehensive search function as well as the converted documents. The documents published during the European Convention have some important specificities: 1. besides the written contribution we also provide actors published speeches; 2. many documents are authored by multiple actors. In this case, the

resulting zip-file includes as many versions of the document as there are authors. If you would like to have the documents only once you have to modify the result file.

- Constitutional Treaty: During the negotiations on the Constitutional Treaty only 70 documents were published. This does not come as a huge surprise as much of the work had been done in the European Convention. All documents were available on the European Council Archives' website.

Copyright

According to the Council website, "all Council documents released to the public can be freely used provided that reference is made to the source". We indicate all sources in both the search results screen and the csv-file that accompanies the downloaded documents. Please make reference to all sources as well as to our database in case you use documents from the latter.

The Project

This database is part of the DFG-funded research project "Constitutional Evolution in the Multi-level System of the European Union". The research project deals with the historical and comparative reconstruction of treaty change and the constitutional evolution in the European Union. The focus is on changes in the decision-making procedures and on the horizontal and vertical distribution of power in the eight cases of EU treaty change from 1957 to date. At the heart of the project is an analytical framework for the investigation of motives, processes and the evaluation of results with regard to possible problems of effectiveness, integration and legitimacy. Along with the comparative analysis of the cases, the interrelation of the eight treaty change processes will be examined. Both, political science and law have so far mostly been concerned with the substantial content of the revised treaties while leaving aside the processes of treaty change. The project will help to eliminate this research deficit. Further information on our research project can be found ☞ here.

Credits

The research project "Constitutional Evolution in the Multi-level System of the European Union" is funded by the DFG. Their support allowed the establishment of this database. Florian Nieselberger did a great job in collecting and clearing the documents. He supported the whole process of creating the

database with great enthusiasm and professionalism. Special thanks to Matthias Häger (Computing Center University of Konstanz) for programming the database and his serenity in the face of ever increasing demands. In addition, we would like to thank the staff of the European Council Archives for their support. The archives of the Permanent Representations of the individual Member States to the EU helped us as well in completing the database.

References

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