

About the project: 'Making Europe Work'  
*College of Europe, Warsaw*

March 3, 2004

In order to help address the key issue behind the collapse of the Summit on the European Constitution in December, the dispute about voting rights in the Council of the European Union, a group of ten students from the College of Europe recently set out to draft a compromise proposal on the EU voting system. The result of their labours is '**Making Europe Work – A Compromise Proposal on Voting in the Council,**' an innovative solution which aims to meet the standards of transparency, egalitarianism and flexibility required with regard to forthcoming enlargements.

The proposal was personally given to the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, and to a number of Ambassadors – including Her Excellency Thelma Doran, Irish Ambassador to Poland, representing the Irish Presidency – and officials invited to attend a recent Conference at the College's campus at Natolin in Warsaw. It has been received by the Irish Presidency and is due to appear on the desks of other major players in European affairs within days.

At the base of the voting model lies the so-called square root formula, introduced by the likes of Lionel Penrose, elaborated thereafter by numerous experts, backed by the Swedish delegation during the 2000 Intergovernmental Conference and – just recently – endorsed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.\*

Please find attached a copy of '**Making Europe Work – A Compromise Proposal on Voting in the Council,**' along with a one-page summary. The full text of the proposal can also be downloaded from the website of the College of Europe :

<http://www.coleurop.be/news.htm>

---

The College is the oldest post-graduate institute for European Studies in the world, with two campuses – one in Bruges and one in Warsaw – and a student-body representing more than thirty nationalities.

---

For further information, please contact:

**Piotr Zalewski:**

- Mobile: +48-608-712-006
- E-mail: [qmv@natolin.edu.pl](mailto:qmv@natolin.edu.pl)

---

\* see the March 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of *Rzeczpospolita* and *EUobserver.com* for details