

I

(Information)

COURT OF AUDITORS

REPORT

**on the accounts drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Convention on
the future of the European Union for the financial year ended
31 December 2003, together with the Secretary-General of the
Convention's comments**

(2004/C 157/01)

1. This audit report concerns the Fund for the financing of the Convention on the future of the European Union, set up by Decision 2002/176/EU of 21 February 2002 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council ⁽¹⁾. By a further Decision 2002/997/EU of 20 December 2002 ⁽²⁾, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States amended Decision 2002/176/EU, extending its validity from 1 January 2003 until the end of the Convention's proceedings, or until 31 December 2003 at the latest.

2. The Court has examined the financial statements in respect of the management of the Fund for the financial year ended 31 December 2003. In accordance with Article 13(1) of Decision 2002/176/EU, the budget was implemented under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the Convention. This responsibility included drawing up and presenting the financial statements. A summary of the total revenue and expenditure of the Convention, drawn up by the Court on the basis of the financial statements of the two years of activity, is presented in *Table 1*.

Table 1

Summary of the revenue and expenditure of the Convention

	21 February 2002 — 31 December 2003
Revenue	
Contributions from the signatory institutions	4 000 000
Bank interest received	88 524
Total revenue	4 088 524
Expenditure paid and accrued	
Title I — Members and staff of the Convention	1 084 777
Title II — Translations and publications	2 883 372 ⁽¹⁾
Total expenditure	3 968 149
Outturn	120 375

Source: A summary, drawn up by the Court of Auditors, on the basis of the financial statements presented by the Secretary-General of the Convention.
The amounts are rounded to euro.

⁽¹⁾ This figure includes the amount of 655 368 euro mentioned in paragraph 5 of the report.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 60, 1.3.2002, p. 56.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 349, 24.12.2002, p. 34.

3. The Court carried out its audit in accordance with its auditing policies and standards. These have been adapted from generally accepted international auditing standards to reflect the Community nature of the context within which the Court works. The Court examined the accounting records and applied the auditing procedures it deemed necessary in this context. Through this audit the Court obtained a reasonable basis for the opinion expressed below.

4. The Court's examination enabled it to obtain reasonable assurance that the accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2003 are reliable, and that the underlying transactions are, on the whole, legal and regular.

5. At the end of 2003 certain costs relating to translation and publication were still outstanding. Considering that 31 December 2003 was the deadline for closing down the Fund, an amount of 655 368 euro, resulting from an estimation of the costs to be settled after this date, was transferred to the General Secretariat of the Council, which undertook the obligation to settle these costs. The final outturn of the Convention's accounts will only be known when all outstanding liabilities have been settled. This might result in a modification of the 120 375 euro foreseen to be paid back to the general budget and divided among the participating institutions. The Court will follow up this question when auditing the Council accounts for the 2004 financial year.

This report was adopted by the Court of Auditors in Luxembourg at its meeting of 13 May 2004.

For the Court of Auditors
Juan Manuel FABRA VALLÉS
President

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONVENTION'S COMMENTS

The Secretary-General has no comments to make on the Court's observations.
