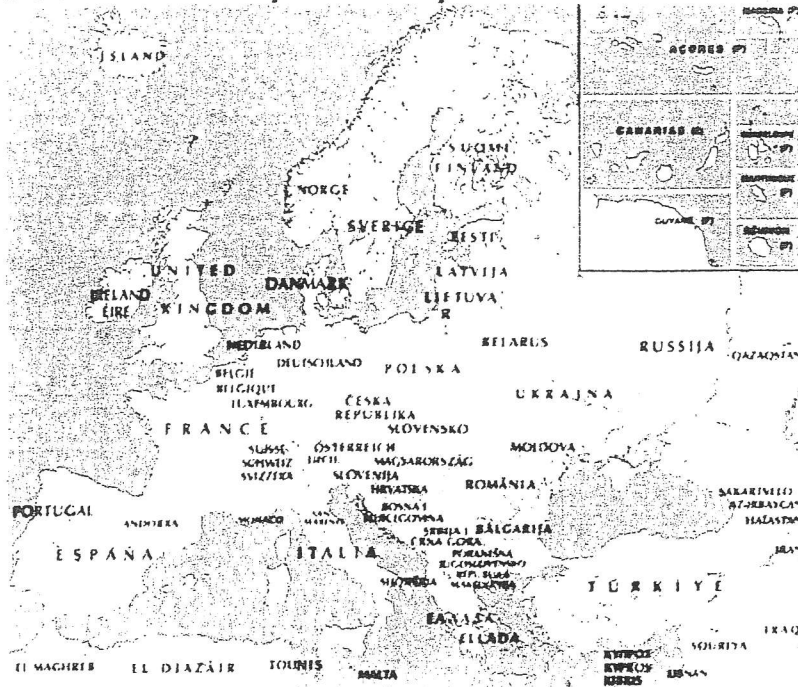


WHAT FUTURE FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION?

DOCUMENT 1 : Map of the European Union



DOCUMENT 2:

- a. The European Council "shall elect its President, by qualified majority, for a term of two-and-a-half years, renewable once". The person selected would then have to be approved by the European Parliament."
- b. "The Union shall have competence to define and implement a common foreign and security policy, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy." Member states "shall support the Union's common foreign and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity."

Two extracts from *The Convention on the Future of Europe*, June 2003.

DOCUMENT: 3

There can be a tendency to think that European Union issues are difficult and remote – of concern just to lawyers, diplomats and economists. But our membership of the EU has an impact on almost all aspects of Irish life. The European Union has helped to transform our economy and society over thirty years. Whether we're urban or rural, young or old, male or female, we're all affected by the EU.

[...] The first reason for supporting the European Constitution is that it introduces much greater legal and political clarity.

[...] It is absolutely untrue to state that it creates some kind of federal superstate. It is made crystal clear that the Union only has the powers which its Member States have chosen, unanimously, to give it.

Dermot Ahern, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, *European Awareness Programme*, 25 November 2004