

## Schedule for the 2000 Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)

**Caption:** Schedule for the meetings of the Conference of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States (Intergovernmental Conference - IGC) which started work on 14 February 2000, culminating on 10 December 2000 with the adoption of the draft Treaty of Nice.

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## Schedule for the 2000 Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)

Date	Meeting	Matters under discussion
14 February 2000	First ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Nicole Fontaine. - Work programme of the IGC
15 February 2000	Meeting of government representatives (1st meeting of the preparatory group under the Portuguese Presidency)	- Extension of qualified majority voting
25 February 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	Plotting the positions of the Member States on three questions: - Provisions of the Treaty that might become subject to qualified majority voting - Court of Auditors, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions - European Parliament
7 March 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Inclusion of other subjects for debate on the IGC's agenda - Extension of qualified majority voting in the Council (taxation, social policy and the environment)
20 March 2000	Second ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament and the representatives of Parliament in the preparatory group (Mr Brock and Mr Tstatsos) - Composition of the Commission - Weighting of votes within the Council
23-24 March 2000 (Lisbon)	EUROPEAN COUNCIL	Progress made so far in the work of the IGC
28 March 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Extension of qualified majority voting - Commission (size, composition, internal organisation, accountability)
4 April 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Weighting of votes within the Council - Reform of the judicial system
10 April 2000	Third ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament - Extension of qualified majority voting - Initial progress report on the proceedings of the IGC drawn up by the Presidency
14-15 April 2000 (Sintra)	Meeting of government representatives (informal) (preparatory group)	Enhanced cooperation
2 May 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	Extension of qualified majority voting
16 May 2000	Meeting of government	- Composition and powers of Parliament

	representatives (preparatory group)	- Reform of the judicial system - Composition of the Court of Auditors, of the Economic and Social Committee and of the Committee of the Regions
22 May 2000	Fourth ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament - European Parliament - Reform of the judicial system
30 May 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Commission (size, composition, confidence motions) - Weighting of votes within the Council
6 June 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Weighting of votes within the Council - Reform of the judicial system - Article 7 EU Treaty (breach of the principles of liberty, democracy and respect for fundamental rights) - External economic relations - Legislative instruments
13 June 2000	Fifth ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the European Parliament (Mr Brok and Mr Tsatsos) - Preparation for the Feira European Council - Possible inclusion of new topics (enhanced cooperation)
19-20 June 2000 (Santa Maria da Feira)	EUROPEAN COUNCIL	- Report by the Presidency on progress made by the IGC - Inclusion of enhanced cooperation - Overall agreement foreseen for the Nice European Council in December 2000
6 July 2000	Meeting of government representatives (1st meeting of preparatory group under French Presidency)	- Organisation of work - Extension of qualified majority voting - Weighting of votes within the Council
10 July 2000	Sixth ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament - Follow-up to the Santa Maria da Feira European Council - Organisation of work
14 July 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Commission (internal organisation) - Enhanced cooperation
24 July 2000	1st ministerial conclave	- Enhanced cooperation - Commission (internal organisation)
4 September 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Qualified-majority voting - Enhanced cooperation
11 September 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	- Reform of the judicial system - Commission - Various points (Article 7 of the EU Treaty, reorganisation of the Treaties)
18 September 2000	Seventh ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of qualified-majority voting</li> <li>- Commission (composition)</li> </ul>
25 September 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European Parliament</li> <li>- Codecision procedure</li> <li>- Reform of the judicial system</li> <li>- Court of Auditors, Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions</li> </ul>
2 October 2000	Meeting of government representatives (preparatory group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Statute for political parties</li> <li>- Reform of the judicial system</li> </ul>
8 October 2000	Ministerial conclave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weighting of votes within the Council</li> <li>- Enhanced cooperation</li> <li>- Article 7 of the EU Treaty</li> </ul>
9 October 2000	Eighth ministerial meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament</li> <li>- Extension of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Article 7 of the EU Treaty</li> <li>- Preparation for the informal European Council of Biarritz</li> </ul>
13-14 October 2000 (Biarritz)	EUROPEAN COUNCIL (informal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Enhanced cooperation</li> <li>- Commission</li> <li>- Weighting of votes within the Council</li> <li>- Article 7 of the EU Treaty</li> <li>- Charter of Fundamental Rights</li> </ul>
30 October 2000	Meeting of the preparatory group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Enhanced cooperation</li> <li>- Reform of the judicial system</li> <li>- Defence</li> <li>- European public prosecutor</li> <li>- Statute for political parties</li> </ul>
4 November 2000	Meeting of the preparatory group (informal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summary document by the Presidency setting out the results of the IGC's work</li> <li>- Reform of the judicial system</li> </ul>
13 November 2000	Meeting of the preparatory group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Weighting of votes within the Council</li> <li>- Commission</li> <li>- Enhanced cooperation</li> <li>- Reform of the judicial system</li> </ul>
19 November 2000	Ministerial conclave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission (size, composition)</li> <li>- Weighting of votes within the Council</li> <li>- Extension of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Reference to the Charter of Fundamental Rights in Article 6 of the EU Treaty</li> </ul>
20 November 2000	Ninth ministerial meeting	Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament
23 November 2000	European conference at ministerial level	Information for applicant countries on the IGC

24-25 November 2000	Meeting of the preparatory group (informal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission</li> <li>- Weighting of votes within the Council</li> <li>- Enhanced cooperation</li> <li>- Reform of the judicial system</li> <li>- European Parliament</li> <li>- Other institutions and organs</li> <li>- Summary document by the Presidency</li> </ul>
Week of 27 November	Bilateral negotiations	
3 December 2000	Ministerial conclave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhanced cooperation</li> <li>- Commission (size, composition)</li> <li>- Extension of qualified majority voting</li> <li>- Summary document by the Presidency</li> </ul>
4 December 2000	Tenth ministerial meeting	- Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament
6 December 2000		Distribution by the Presidency of the draft Treaty of Nice
7-9 December 2000 (Nice)	EUROPEAN COUNCIL	
10 December 2000	European Council meeting in the IGC	Approval of the draft treaty of Nice (provisional text)
<p>- Political responsibility of the IGC is entrusted to the foreign ministers sitting in the General Affairs Council. The Commission takes part in this work.</p> <p>- The IGC's work is done at three levels:</p> <p>1) Preparatory group: made up of government representatives of the Member States, tasked with preparing ministerial meetings. Two observers from the European Parliament are present at the meetings.</p> <p>2) Ministerial meeting: this is held on the margins of the General Affairs Council. Every ministerial meeting is preceded by an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament, assisted by two representatives.</p> <p>3) European Council: decisions are taken at the level of Heads of State or Government.</p> <p>In order to speed up the negotiation procedure, the French presidency added a 4th level: the ministerial conclave.</p>		