

Translation

The Federal Republic of Germany
The Federal Chancellor

2 January 2007

Dear Prime Minister,

On 1 January Germany assumed the EU Council Presidency. The 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome, which laid the foundations for the European unification success story, falls during our Presidency. I am already looking forward to welcoming you on 24 March on the eve of the informal summit of Heads of State and Government I will be hosting in Berlin to mark the occasion.

I intend to prepare the political Declaration to be adopted on 25 March 2007 in confidential consultations with Heads of State and Government and their close advisers. The same goes for consultations over possible ways to take the constitutional process forward. A viable proposal for the June European Council can be developed only on the basis of intensive consultations with all partners.

In this connection I would ask you to appoint at adviser level a person who enjoys your confidence to participate if possible in both, in part parallel consultation processes and who is authorized as so-called "focal point" to speak on your behalf. This person may be accompanied by a further aide.

The focal point in the Federal Chancellery will be [REDACTED].
[REDACTED]. I suggest that the focal point you appoint should get in touch with [REDACTED] as soon as possible to arrange a first bilateral meeting to take place some time between 23 January and 2 February. We will be asking [REDACTED] to join the official consultations at focal point level as the representative of the Federal Foreign Office.

A tentative schedule for the consultations on the Declaration and the constitutional process is attached.

Yours sincerely,
(sgd) Dr Angela Merkel

**Schedule for consultations on the Berlin Declaration and the constitutional process
(as of 2 January 2007)**

23 Jan. – 2 Feb.	Period for bilateral talks at focal point level in Berlin (main issue: Declaration)
12 – 16 Feb.	Period for meeting of all focal points in Berlin (Declaration)
8 March	Exchange of views between Heads of State and Government at the spring European Council dinner (Declaration)
thereafter	Finalization of the Declaration by capitals and translation into all official languages
25 March	Adoption of the Declaration in Berlin On the margins of the celebrations a first exchange of views between Heads of State and Government on the constitutional process
23 April – 4 May	Period for bilateral talks at focal point level in Berlin
7 – 11 May	Period for possible meeting of all focal points in Berlin
21 May – 1 June	Period for bilateral talks with the Federal Chancellor in Berlin
thereafter	If possible finalization by capitals of a proposal for the June European Council
21 – 22 June	European Council