



Belgian Presidency

EU Speakers' Conference

March 2011

Re: Proposal on the parliamentary oversight on CFSP/CSDP/Comments

Dear Colleagues,

With regard to the upcoming Conference of EU Speakers, which will take place in Brussels from 3 to 5 April, and the proposal by the Belgian Presidency on the parliamentary oversight of CFSP/CSDP I would like to inform you that the Foreign Policy and Defence Committee (FPDC) at the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria met on 10 March 2011 and made certain recommendations:

On the base of the circulated proposal from the Belgian Presidency and keeping with the given numeration, these are the comments forthcoming on behalf of the FPDC (note that the only points discussed are the ones that the FPDC has particular comments on. Nr. 2 is omitted in light of the changes proposed in Nr. 3)

- Nr. 1 - The CFSP/CSDP Conference should not be formed as a new or standing institution. It should be set up under the auspices of the Conference of European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the EU (COSAC), based upon the existing legal base (Article 10, Protocol 1, of the Lisbon Treaty).
- Nr. 3 – The delegates from the national parliaments and the European Parliament should equal the proportion of the representation at the COSAC meetings (currently six members from each of the national parliaments and six members representing the European Parliament).
- Nr. 4 – Parliaments of candidate Member States shall be represented by observers, whose number can not exceed the allotted at COSAC meetings.
- Nr. 5 – CFSP/CSDP Conference meetings are organized bi-annually by the country holding the rotating Council Presidency and shall be held in an appropriate Brussels venue other than the European Parliament, or in the country holding the rotating Council Presidency.

- Nr. 6 – CFSP/CSDP Conferences shall follow the current model of presidency of COSAC.
- Nr. 9 – Conference secretariat shall be provided by existing COSAC structures. Additional staff may be added on “need to” basis.

The FPDC strongly upholds the position that costs for these Conferences should be kept to a minimum and appropriate existing structures should be utilized for the important task of oversight by national parliaments of inter-governmental CFSP and CSDP activity.



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Chair, Foreign Policy and
Defence Committee at the
National Assembly of the
Republic of Bulgaria