Parliament of the Czech Republic CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES 2011

6th election term

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RESOLUTION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs from its 9th meeting on 2 March 2011

on parliamentary discussions on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy

Following rationalisation by Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs MP David Vodrážka and following discussion,

the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

- **acknowledges** the impending end of the activities of the European Security and Defence Assembly the Assembly of Western European Union, which served as a forum for meetings between representatives of national Parliaments on the common European defence policy, and the necessity of replacing this assembly with a new body;
- **is aware** that Protocol 1 of the Lisbon Treaty on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union allows the creation of a mechanism for regular interparliamentary cooperation in Europe;
- **acknowledges** the discussion to date taking place at both the European and the national level and endorses the opinion that the new body to accommodate interparliamentary cooperation on foreign and security policy should be created based on the blueprint of the current conferences of the heads of defence and foreign policy committees organised by the country chairing the Council of the European Union;
- **acknowledges** the fact that the formulation of a Common Security and Defence Policy, which is a component of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, remains a distinctly intergovernmental activity and therefore requires the involvement of national Parliaments in controlling this process;
- **acknowledges** the proposal of the Belgian presidency of the Conference of the Speakers of EU Parliaments;

adopts the following Resolution:

I. Comments on the proposal of the Belgian presidency of the Conference of the Speakers of EU Parliaments

the Committee on Foreign Affairs

- **expresses disagreement** with the proposed formulation, by which the representation of the European Parliament could reach one third of all Conference members;
- states that the possibility of cooperation with non-EU Member States should not be limited only to candidate countries for membership in the EU;
- states that the Conference Secretariat should not be provided exclusively by the European Parliament.

II. Proposal of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the future structure of interparliamentary cooperation on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and **Common Security and Defence Policy**

the Committee on Foreign Affairs

- supports the creation of a conference made up of representatives from the defence and foreign affairs committees of EU Member States that would meet regularly and deal conceptually with developments in the field of Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy and which would replace the current European Security and Defence Assembly – Assembly of WEU;
- **proposes** that the conference meet regularly twice annually made up of six representatives from each national Parliament. The European Parliament would have the same representation at the Conference as Member States;
- **proposes** that the activities of the conference be organised as part of the activities of the country presiding over the Council of the EU and that its agenda be coordinated as part of the Trio;
- proposes that the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy be regularly invited to meetings of the Conference;
- **proposes** that, as needed, the Conference maintain contact with non-EU Member States and other security organisations in Europe;
- proposes that, as needed, the Conference cooperate with the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC);
- III. The Committee on Foreign Affairs delegates its chairperson with apprising the Chairperson of the Chamber of Deputies and the chairs of the Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Defence and Security of this Resolution in order to formulate a common position that the Chairperson of the Chamber of Deputies shall present at the Conference of the Speakers of EU Parliaments in Brussels.

Committee Verifier

Committee Chairperson