



HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

Standpoints Submitted by the Chairs of:

1. Standing Committee for European Affairs and

2. Standing Committees for National Defense and Foreign Affairs

To the attention of Speakers of European Union National Parliaments:

As you are well aware, last year the 10 WEU member-states decided to denounce the amended Brussels Treaty and abolish the Organization and its Assembly by the end of June 2011. As a result, a deficit has emerged regarding the parliamentary scrutiny of European Security and Defense issues. Several interesting views have been proposed by EU member-states' Parliaments as to how to bridge this gap, all focusing on the idea of creation of an interparliamentary conference. Building on recommendations by members of the Hellenic Parliament, we hereby propose the following:

- Under the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and in particular Protocol N.1 on the role of national parliaments in the European Union, we propose the establishment of an Interparliamentary Conference both on Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), composed solely of EU National Parliaments' delegations.
- The size of these delegations shall be based on equal representation, in line with the model of COSAC.
- A European Parliament delegation shall participate with observer status. COSAC is and shall remain their common decision-making platform.
- The Conference's seat should be in Brussels, fully independent from the European Parliament and other institutional organs; it should convene twice a year either in Brussels or at the country holding the EU Presidency. The Chair

of its meetings should be the National Parliament of member-state holding the six-month Presidency of the EU-Council.

- The Council President and the EU High Representative on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy should be invited to the Conference meetings, in order to explain the main aspects and basic strategies of the Union's Common , Foreign, Security and Defense Policies.
- The Conference should set up two committees, one on foreign and security policy and the other on defense and armaments, in order to prepare reports and adopt opinions.
- For purposes of the Conference's secretarial support, it is proposed to set up a small secretariat funded by the National Parliaments.