

Riigikogu esimees

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Tallinn, December 29, 2011

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

Thank you for your letter of 29 November regarding the compromise proposal on establishment of an Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defence Policy.

I have discussed the subject with the Chairmen of our Foreign Affairs Committee and National Defence Committee. While stressing that the responsibility for parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP/CSDP lies with national parliaments, the Estonian Parliament supports the continuation of exchange of information and best practice between the respective subject committees of national parliaments. The two existing formats – the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and the Conference of Defence Affairs Committee Chairpersons (CODACC) – should be used, meaning that, in addition to their own meetings, the two forums may come together in order to have discussions on common subjects. The COFACC and CODACC meetings and the common conference could be organized on two consecutive days.

The Conference may express opinions and adopt non-binding conclusions, but the main objective of the meetings shall be exchange of information and as a rule no formal documents are expected to be adopted.

We do not support creation of any new institutions or a permanent secretariat. The responsibility for preparing and for chairing the Conference should rest with the EU Presidency in close cooperation with the other countries in the EU troika and the European Parliament.

There should be equality between national parliaments and the European Parliament. The delegations of the Conference should consist of chairmen of the relevant subject committees of national parliaments and the European Parliament (plus one personnel member for each chairman).

We are very positive that the parliaments of the candidate countries and Norway are invited to participate with observers.

Dear Colleagues, I appreciate very much the efforts you have undertaken during your presidency towards finding a compromise solution. I hope that we can achieve a final compromise during our next Conference in Warsaw in April.

Yours sincerely,



Ene Ergma
President of Riigikogu