

– Courtesy translation –

Mr Ewa Kopacz

President of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Mr Bogdan Borusewicz

President of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

Lisbon, 4 January 2012

I should like to thank you for the letter of 29 November 2011, proposing the composition of the delegations to the Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP-CSDP).

Firstly, the Portuguese Parliament expresses its agreement with the consensus obtained in Brussels, at the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments in April 2011, on the structure of the new Inter-parliamentary Conference, its decision-making method and the frequency of its meetings.

Then, as regards the issues we have not yet agreed upon – the secretariat of the Inter-parliamentary Conference and the composition of the delegations (number of Members of national Parliaments and of the European Parliament) – I should like to suggest, on the first one, opting for existing structures, such as the COSAC secretariat and the permanent representatives of national Parliaments in Brussels.

On the second issue, I should like to affirm the principle of parity between delegations of the national Parliaments and the European Parliament, in accordance with the composition of the COSAC delegations and, above all, taking into consideration the intergovernmental nature of the referred policies.

The Portuguese Parliament is always available to support a compromise proposal that, ensuring the above-mentioned general lines, all parties can accept.

Finally, I should like to renew my request to the Polish Presidency to include in the agenda for the next Conference of Speakers a debate on “*The Crisis of the Unity of the Union: what shall we do?*”, under the terms of the letter that I have previously sent.

Yours sincerely,

Maria da Assunção A. Esteves

President of the Assembly of the Republic