*COURTESY TRANSLATION*

**Mr Bogdan BORUSEWICZ**

 **Marshal of the Senate of Poland**

 **Ul. Wiejska 6, PL 00 902 Warsaw**

 Athens, 10 April 2012

Dear Colleague,

Following the debate on the issue of the format of the Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, I would like first of all to express our gratitude for the Polish Presidency’s commitment on reaching a satisfying solution for all parties. Unfortunately, due to current political developments in Greece, I am unable to attend the European Union Speaker’s Conference.

Concerning your latest proposal, thus applying a formula of open participation for a probationary period of two years, allow me to fill you in on the views and points raised by the Members of the Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Policy.

The focal point of the discussion was to retain the flexible format of the previous COFACC/CODACC Conference, in order to facilitate the workflow as well as the openness of the debate. A significant enlargement of the conference would alternate the original purpose and goal of its function, which is far and most of all a free and open exchange of views between colleagues of member states parliaments. The participation of the European Parliament is of course an added value to the functioning of the new forum, taken that a certain balance is respected.

Moreover, in times of economic turmoil, such an extended body would burden significantly each acting Presidency, that will have to undertake the organization of this event.

Though the need for an extended and enhanced parliamentary scrutiny on common security, defense and foreign policy field is a question of democratic reliability for the European Union and it should be dealt with a broad rather than a restrictive spirit, the issue of quality of the debate and flexibility should not be overlooked.

The COSAC model is a successfully tested paradigm. Therefore, its composition (six MPs from each member state, with equal capacities) should be reconsidered in the future.

I wish for success in the organization and outcome of this important event, availing myself of the opportunity to express the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Signed: Philippos PETSALNIKOS

**Mrs Ewa KOPACZ**

**Marshal of the Sejm of Poland**

**Ul. Wiejska 4-6**

**PL 00 902 Warsaw**

 Athens, 10 April 2012

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