

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS FOR THE DRAFT CONTRIBUTIONS
COSAC Plenary meeting
31 May – 2 June, Riga

Original text	No	Amendments as proposed by delegations
1. EU Energy and Climate Policy		
1.1. COSAC recognises the outstanding nature of challenges associated with the energy sector in the EU, in particular the high dependency of EU Member States on imported energy resources, and therefore emphasises the importance of solidarity, trust and enhanced coordination in dealing with risks and challenges.		
1.2. COSAC emphasises the key importance of optimising energy flows and energy consumption, as increased energy efficiency has a key role in reaching this goal. Moderation of energy demand, as well as treating energy efficiency as an energy source in its own right, are keys to achieving the energy policy goals of the EU. Furthermore, higher energy efficiency contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to achieving the EU's climate targets, the importance of which cannot be stressed enough ahead of the 2015 UN climate change negotiations in Paris.		
1.3. Underscoring the importance of climate-related actions, COSAC welcomes the suggested framework for achieving an effective transition to a low-carbon economy set forth in the Communication of the Commission entitled <i>The Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020</i> that was tabled together with the Energy Union framework and refers to decarbonisation of the economy as a whole.	1	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>1.3. Underscoring the importance of climate-related actions, COSAC welcomes the suggested framework for a transparent and dynamic global agreement, containing fair and ambitious commitments from all Parties based on evolving global economic and geopolitical circumstances achieving an effective transition to a low-carbon economy set forth in the Communication of the Commission titled <i>The Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global</i></p>

		<i>climate change beyond 2020 that was tabled together with the Energy Union framework and refers to decarbonisation of the economy as a whole.</i>
	2	<p>Romania</p> <p>1.3. Underscoring the importance of climate-related actions, COSAC welcomes the suggested framework for achieving an effective transition to a low-carbon economy set forth in the Communication of the Commission entitled <i>The Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020</i> that was tabled together with the Energy Union framework and refers to decarbonisation of the economy as a whole. Further efforts are needed to de-couple the economic growth from the energy consumption, by using more sophisticated regulatory instruments at the Union level.</p>
1.4. COSAC notes the role of research and technological innovation in boosting the competitiveness of Europe's energy sector and the economy as a whole. Moreover, new solutions which enable for more efficient use of renewable energy resources, as well as the application of smart technologies to the production, supply and balancing of energy demand and supply, should be the key elements of the EU's future energy landscape.		
	3	<p>Romania</p> <p>COSAC notes the role of research and technological innovation in boosting the competitiveness of Europe's energy sector and the economy as a whole. Moreover, new solutions which enable for more efficient use of renewable energy resources, as well as the application of smart technologies to the production, supply and balancing of energy demand and supply, should be the key elements of the EU's future energy landscape. Energy small-scale production and trade should intensively be encouraged and supported. Cutting edge energy sources and emerging energy transportation means shall be highly ranked in policy-making at Union level.</p>

<p>1.5. COSAC acknowledges that a fully integrated European energy market can be achieved only through proactive and simultaneous development of energy infrastructures, as well as the implementation and application of EU energy regulations. In terms of connecting with other EU partners, some Member States can still be regarded as energy islands requiring particular attention, including financing, to end their isolation from neighbouring energy markets. Therefore, COSAC calls upon the European Commission to take steps that will facilitate development of necessary interconnections, and strongly encourages Member States to implement the EU legislation that sets the framework for introduction of a fully and effectively functioning internal energy market for electricity and natural gas. The better and the more efficiently an increasingly integrated EU-wide energy market operates, the better the odds of protecting energy consumers and alleviating energy poverty.</p>	4	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>1.5. COSAC acknowledges that a fully integrated European energy market can be achieved only through proactive and simultaneous development of energy infrastructures, as well as implementation and application of EU energy regulations. In terms of connecting with other EU partners, Some Member States can still be regarded as energy islands and therefore requiring require particular attention, including financing, to end their isolation from neighbouring the UE energy markets. Therefore, COSAC calls upon the European Commission to take steps that will facilitate development of necessary interconnections, and strongly encourages Member States to implement the EU legislation that sets the framework for introduction of a fully and effectively functioning internal energy market for electricity and natural gas. The better and the more efficiently an increasingly integrated EU-wide energy market operates, the better the odds of protecting energy consumers and alleviating energy poverty.</p>
	5	<p><i>Romania</i></p> <p>NEW 1.5.a. COSAC calls for greater EU involvement in supporting the development of newly discovered offshore oil and gas extraction capacities, such as the natural gas resources at the Black Sea that could provide the energy for the entire region.</p>
	6	<p><i>Romania</i></p> <p>NEW 1.5.b. COSAC acknowledges that nuclear energy may be accepted in the energy mix of each member state as a mean to ensure continuous providing of electricity at reasonable prices and facilitate meeting the EU decarbonisation targets.</p>

1.6. In this context, COSAC welcomes the initiative for establishing the European Energy Union with the strategic goal of greater energy security, sustainability and competitiveness. It stresses the importance of steps already taken, as per the Communication from the European Commission on a Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change policy ¹ supported by the Roadmap for the Energy Union.	7	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>1.6. In this context, COSAC welcomes the initiative for establishing the European Energy Union with the strategic goal to achieve greater energy security, sustainability and competitiveness. COSAC calls for swift implementation of the most important steps foreseen in the It stresses the importance of steps already taken, as per the Communication from the European Commission on a Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change policy² supported by the Roadmap for the Energy Union.</p>
	8	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>NEW 1.7 Considers in this regard that the successful model of the Coal and Steel Community should be the reference, notably from the institutional point of view, of the European Energy Union;</p>
2. Parliamentary Scrutiny of EU Affairs		
2.1. COSAC reaffirms its belief that the involvement of national Parliaments in the European decision-making process strengthens the overall democratic legitimacy of the EU, and welcomes the continuing debate on the current and future role of Parliaments and the scope of parliamentary scrutiny of EU affairs.	9	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>2.1. COSAC reaffirms its belief that the involvement of Parliaments in the scrutiny of the European decision-making process strengthens the overall democratic legitimacy of the EU, and welcomes the continuing debate on the current and future role of Parliaments and the scope of parliamentary scrutiny of EU affairs.</p>

¹ COM(2015) 80 final

² COM(2015) 80 final

	10	<p><i>Italy (Chamber of Deputies)</i></p> <p>NEW 2.2. a. COSAC welcomes the Conclusion of the EU Speakers Conference in Rome on 20-21 April 2015 which express the interest of the Speakers in the debate on the role of the institutions and national Parliaments of the EU, taking place within the COSAC, including the discussions on strengthening the instruments of political dialogue. COSAC takes note that, according to the Conclusions, discussion on these matters will be taken up again at the 2016 Conference of Speakers, at which the outcome of the discussions of the next COSAC will also be taken into consideration.</p>
2.2. COSAC emphasises that there is a general willingness of Parliaments to play a stronger role in the EU through full and efficient use of the existing mechanisms, such as general scrutiny of their respective Governments, subsidiarity control, political dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation.	11	<p><i>Latvia</i></p> <p>2.2. COSAC emphasises that there is a general willingness of national Parliaments to play a stronger role in the EU through full and efficient use of the existing mechanisms, such as general scrutiny of their respective Governments, subsidiarity control, political dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation.</p>
	12	<p><i>Romania</i></p> <p>2.2. COSAC emphasises that there is a general willingness of Parliaments to play a stronger role in the EU through full and efficient use of the existing mechanisms, such as general scrutiny of their respective Governments, subsidiarity control, contributions to EU proposals, political dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation.</p>
2.3. Moreover, COSAC notes that the 22 nd Bi-Annual Report indicated that a majority of Parliaments would be favourable to the creation of new tools enabling parliamentary involvement and cooperation without formal Treaty amendments, thus strengthening the role of Parliaments even further. In this context, COSAC acknowledges that there is broad support from the Parliaments for initiatives, such as introduction of the “green	13	<p><i>German Bundestag</i></p> <p>2.3. Moreover, COSAC notes that the 22nd Bi-Annual Report indicated that a majority of Parliaments would be favourable to the creation of new tools enabling parliamentary involvement and cooperation without formal Treaty amendments, thus strengthening the role of Parliaments even further. In this</p>

card” procedure; furthermore, COSAC takes note of the ongoing debate which should lead to a more focused and stronger parliamentary scrutiny of European Commission’s annual work programmes.		context, COSAC acknowledges that there is broad support from the Parliaments for initiatives, such as introduction of the “green card” procedure; f Furthermore, COSAC takes note of the ongoing debate on parliamentary scrutiny of European Commission’s annual work programmes.
	14	<i>EP</i> 2.3. Moreover, COSAC notes that the 22 nd Bi-Annual Report indicated that a majority of the responding Parliaments would be favourable to the creation of new tools enabling parliamentary involvement and cooperation without formal Treaty amendments. In this context, COSAC acknowledges that there is general interest from several willing Parliaments for initiatives, such as introduction of a so-called possible “green card”, also referred to as "the enhanced political dialogue" ; furthermore, COSAC takes note of the ongoing debate on parliamentary scrutiny of European Commission’s annual work programme.
2.4. COSAC invites the European Commission to support the Parliaments’ willingness to play a more proactive role and to engage with both the existing and new forms of cooperation in line with the EU Treaties and the existing balance of power between the institutions, in the spirit of its previously announced commitment to forging a new partnership with national Parliaments. In this respect, COSAC welcomes the initiative of the new European Commission to coordinate and strengthen the interaction of all Commissioners with national Parliaments, as well as individual commitments of Commissioners to increase the frequency of meetings with national Parliaments in order to discuss legislative proposals and/or other initiatives of the Commission and to take an active part in formulating more timely responses to the contributions from the national Parliaments.	15	<i>EP</i> 2.4. COSAC hopes that the European Commission will respond to Parliaments' willingness to play a more proactive role and to engage with both the existing and new forms of cooperation in full compliance with the applicable provisions of the existing EU treaties, notably Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon, and the current inter-institutional balance, in the spirit of its previously announced commitment to forging a new partnership with national Parliaments. In this respect, COSAC welcomes the initiative of the new European Commission to coordinate and strengthen the interaction of all Commissioners with national Parliaments, as well as individual commitments of Commissioners to increase the frequency of meetings with national Parliaments in order to discuss legislative proposals and/or other initiatives of the Commission and to take an active part in formulating responses to the contributions from the national Parliaments.

	16	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>NEW 2.5. COSAC welcomes the Report of the Working Group on the possibility of improving the “yellow card” procedure which shows common understanding both for better use by national Parliaments of the Treaty provisions concerning subsidiarity and proportionality scrutiny, and for an enhanced cooperation between national Parliaments with a view to making better use of the mechanisms made available to them.</p>
	17	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>2.5.1. or 2.6. With this regard COSAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invites national Parliaments to carry out (each in line with its own practice and internal procedure of its Chamber) a scrutiny of the Commission Work Programme and identify proposals they consider most important; • calls on the Commission to set up the practice of presentation the CWP by the Commissioners no later than three months after its publication; • agrees to hold debates on the CWP during COSAC Chairpersons meeting in the first semester of each year in the presence of Vice-President of the Commission responsible for relations with national Parliaments.
	18	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>2.5.2 or 2.7. In view of the new opening in relations between national Parliaments and the Commission, COSAC calls on the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reduce the time for preparation of its replies to reasoned opinions to a maximum of 8 weeks, excluding Christmas/ New Year and Easter breaks as well as summer holidays in August assuming that the same approach will be applied to the deadline for reasoned opinion issued by national Parliaments

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to refer in detail in its replies to all issues raised by national Parliaments in their reasoned opinions; • to prepare, in addition to individual replies to the Parliaments/Chambers that have sent reasoned opinions, one reply comprising answers to all reservations raised by national Parliaments/Chambers in their reasoned opinions and circulate it to all Parliaments/Chambers of the Member States.
<p><i>On subsidiarity checks</i></p> <p>2.5. COSAC would welcome better cooperation and coordination between national Parliaments in the conduct of subsidiarity checks. With a view to rendering this exercise more efficient and effective, COSAC discussed the possibility of elaborating informal guidelines on the conduct of subsidiarity assessment and the reasoned opinion procedure. The majority of Parliaments whose views are presented in the 23rd Bi-Annual Report have expressed their support to issuing a voluntary, non-binding set of best practices and guidelines on the basic elements of subsidiarity analysis. COSAC invites Parliaments willing to cooperate more closely towards the elaboration of such informal guidelines to further explore practical ways to achieve this within the framework of COSAC.</p>	19	<p>Latvia</p> <p>2.5. COSAC would welcome better cooperation and coordination between national Parliaments in the conduct of subsidiarity checks. With a view to rendering this exercise more efficient and effective, COSAC discussed the possibility of elaborating informal guidelines on the conduct of subsidiarity assessment and the reasoned opinion procedure. The majority of Parliaments whose views are presented in the 23rd Bi-Annual Report have expressed their support to issuing a voluntary, non-binding set of best practices and guidelines on the basic elements of subsidiarity analysis. COSAC invites Parliaments willing to cooperate more closely towards the elaboration of such informal guidelines to further explore practical ways to achieve this within the framework of COSAC. COSAC invites the Luxembourgish Presidency to set up a working group for this purpose.</p>
	20	<p>EP</p> <p>2.5. COSAC welcomes better cooperation and coordination between national Parliaments in the conduct of subsidiarity checks. With a view to rendering this exercise more efficient and effective, COSAC discussed the possibility of elaborating informal guidelines on the conduct of subsidiarity assessment and the reasoned opinion procedure. The majority of Parliaments whose views are presented in the 23rd Bi-Annual Report have expressed their support to issuing a voluntary, non-binding set of best practices and guidelines on the subsidiarity check to be elaborated within the framework of COSAC; COSAC invites Parliaments to closely cooperate towards the elaboration of such informal guidelines;.</p>

2.6. However, COSAC emphasises that there is a clear preference of Parliaments not to standardise the format in which reasoned opinions and political dialogue contributions are drafted and submitted to the European Commission, and underlines that these formal matters should be left within the competence of respective Parliaments and their established internal procedural practices.	21	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>2.6. However, COSAC emphasises that there is a clear preference of Parliaments not to standardise the format in which reasoned opinions and political dialogue contributions are drafted and submitted to the European Commission, and not to issue guidelines for the political dialogue contributions; therefore COSAC underlines that these formal matters should be left within the competence of respective Parliaments and their established internal practices.</p>
<p><i>On the “green card”</i></p> <p>2.7. COSAC believes that, in addition to the existing forms of parliamentary scrutiny and involvement, the “green card” procedure constitutes a valuable opportunity for national Parliaments to play a proactive role in the EU agenda-setting process and thus can contribute further to the good functioning of the EU.</p>	22	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p><i>On the possible so-called “green card” (enhanced political dialogue)</i></p> <p>2.7. COSAC believes that, in addition to the existing forms of parliamentary scrutiny and involvement, the possible so-called “green card”, also referred to as "enhanced political dialogue" would constitute a valuable opportunity for national Parliaments to play a proactive role in the scrutiny of the EU decision-making process and thus contribute further to the good functioning of the EU.</p>
	23	<p><i>Romania</i></p> <p>2.7. COSAC believes that, in addition to the existing forms of parliamentary scrutiny and involvement, the “green card” procedure constitutes a valuable opportunity possibility for willing national Parliaments to play a proactive role in the EU agenda-setting process and thus can with a view to contribute further to the good functioning of the EU.</p>
2.8. COSAC emphasises that the “green card” mechanism would enhance the existing political dialogue and would further encourage national	24	<i>German Bundestag</i>

Parliaments interested in proactive involvement to make constructive suggestions regarding policy or legislative proposals to the European Commission, without undermining the Commission's right of legislative initiative under the EU Treaties or its competences in dealing with reasoned opinions, as laid down in Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. In view of the support expressed by the vast majority of Parliaments to the introduction of such a procedure, as reflected in the 23 rd Bi-Annual Report, COSAC invites the Luxembourgish Presidency to continue work on the scope and procedural framework of the "green card" mechanism while ensuring its compliance with the existing institutional balance of powers.		2.8. COSAC emphasises that the "green card" mechanism would build entirely on the existing political dialogue and would further encourage national Parliaments interested in proactive involvement to make constructive suggestions regarding policy or legislative proposals to the European Commission, without undermining the Commission's right of legislative initiative under the EU Treaties or its competences in dealing with reasoned opinions, as laid down in Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. Given the support expressed by the vast majority of Parliaments to the introduction of such a procedure, as reflected in the 23rd Bi-Annual Report, COSAC invites the Luxembourgish Presidency to pursue the discussion continue work on the scope and procedural framework of the "green card" mechanism while ensuring its compliance with Treaty Law and the existing institutional balance of powers.
	25	<i>EP</i> 2.8. COSAC emphasises that <i>the possible so-called "green card" (enhanced political dialogue)</i> would build entirely on the existing political dialogue and would further encourage national Parliaments interested in proactive involvement to make constructive <i>non-binding</i> suggestions regarding policy or legislative proposals to the European Commission, without undermining the Commission's right of legislative initiative under the EU Treaties or its competences in dealing with reasoned opinions, as laid down in Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. Given the <i>interest expressed by the responding</i> Parliaments to <i>the enhanced political dialogue</i> , as reflected in the 23 rd Bi-Annual Report, COSAC invites the Luxemburg Presidency to continue <i>the work on identifying its</i> scope and <i>practical aspects</i> while ensuring its compliance with the existing <i>Treaty provisions and with the inter-institutional balance of powers</i> .
	26	<i>Romania</i> 2.8. COSAC emphasises that the "green card" mechanism would enhance the existing political dialogue and would further encourage national Parliaments interested in proactive involvement to make constructive suggestions regarding

		policy or legislative proposals to the European Commission, without undermining the Commission's right of legislative initiative under the EU Treaties or its competences in dealing with reasoned opinions, as laid down in Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. In view of the support expressed by the vast majority of Parliaments to the introduction of such a procedure, as reflected in the 23 rd Bi-Annual Report, COSAC invites the Luxembourgish Presidency to continue work on the scope and procedural framework of the "green card" mechanism while ensuring its compliance with the existing institutional balance of powers, and preventing duplications with existing procedures.
2.9. COSAC acknowledges the fact that some national Parliaments would not be able to use this procedure due to internal constitutional restrictions on their power in EU affairs.	27	<i>Romania</i> 2.9. COSAC acknowledges the fact that some national Parliaments would not be able to use this procedure due to internal constitutional restrictions on their power in EU affairs, or any other reason.
2.10. COSAC highly values the European Commission's constructive commitment to political dialogue with national Parliaments and hopes that in this spirit it will support the "green card" mechanism as a new enhanced form of political dialogue.	28	<i>EP</i> 2.10. COSAC highly values the European Commission's constructive commitment to political dialogue with national Parliaments and hopes that in this spirit it will support the enhanced political dialogue.
<i>On the programming of the European Commission</i> 2.11. COSAC takes note of the ongoing debate on enhanced cooperation and exchange of views between the Parliaments and EU institutions involved in relation to the European Commission's annual and multiannual planning of work, as well as the recent cluster meetings of the willing Parliaments interested in seeking to define the scope and procedural aspects of such cooperation.	29	<i>EP</i> 2.11. COSAC takes note of the ongoing debate on enhanced cooperation and exchange of views between the Parliaments and EU institutions involved in relation to the European Commission's annual and multiannual planning of work, as well as the recent informal working group meetings of the willing Parliaments seeking to define the practical aspects of such cooperation.
	30	<i>Romania</i>

		<p>NEW 2.11.a. COSAC highlights the growing relevance of forecasts and prospective analysis, to substantiate the planning of EU documents and legislation and encourages the European Commission to support elaboration of studies focused on regional interest topics.</p> <p>NEW 2.11.b. COSAC stresses the need to promote long term strategic vision in programming, in such a way as to reflect major political options of Political Groups. Education and research would be amongst the fields benefiting most from this action.</p>
<p><i>On cooperation with the European Parliament</i></p> <p>2.12. COSAC welcomes the new idea of cooperation put forward by the European Parliament which enables interested Parliaments to voice their positions and share background knowledge on implementation of EU legislation that the European Commission intends to amend. COSAC notes that Parliaments have broadly expressed their willingness to exchange best practices and share ideas on parliamentary monitoring on transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law with the European Parliament while emphasising the position of some national Parliaments that such monitoring lies within the competence of the executive and/or the European Commission.</p>		
<p>2.13. COSAC looks forward to strengthening the political dialogue between national Parliaments and the European Parliament on selected legislative dossiers, among others, by enhancing cooperation between the rapporteurs of the European Parliament and national Parliaments.</p>		
3. EU Trade Policy and the Role of Parliaments		
<p><i>On the future of EU trade policy</i></p> <p>3.1. COSAC emphasises that free trade and exchange of goods and ideas have historically contributed to reducing tensions and establishing peace and prosperity; therefore, COSAC expects the ongoing and future EU trade negotiations with its strategic partners to tap into this long-established tradition.</p>	31	<p>Romania</p> <p>3.1. COSAC emphasises that free trade and exchange of goods and ideas have historically contributed to reducing tensions building confidence and establishing peace and prosperity; therefore, COSAC expects the ongoing and</p>

		future EU trade negotiations with its strategic partners to tap into this long-established tradition.
3.2. COSAC calls on the European Commission to deliver an ambitious future trade strategy aimed at creating economic opportunities for EU citizens, delivering lasting and durable prosperity in the EU and around the world, and setting high international and global standards based on the values laid down in the EU Treaties.	32	Romania 3.2. COSAC calls on the European Commission to deliver an ambitious future trade strategy aimed at creating economic opportunities for EU citizens and companies , delivering lasting and durable prosperity in the EU and around the world, and setting high international and global standards based on the values laid down in the EU Treaties.
<i>On the role of Parliaments in EU trade policy</i> 3.3. COSAC notes that EU negotiations on free trade agreements with third countries have recently generated a lot of interest among EU Member States and welcomes the debate on the role of Parliaments in this process; nevertheless, it calls for a greater involvement of national Parliaments from the outset. In this context, COSAC takes note of the Conclusions of the Presidency of the Conference of the Speakers of the European Union Parliaments held in Rome on 20-21 April 2015 on this matter.		
3.4. COSAC invites the European Commission to engage in active dialogue with national Parliaments taking into account that Parliaments use different systems to scrutinise individual EU trade and investment agreements with third countries.		
3.5. COSAC recognises the increased role of the European Parliament with regard to EU trade policy since the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty and looks forward to full-fledged cooperation and information exchange between national Parliaments and the European Parliament on trade issues that benefit EU citizens.		
<i>On TTIP</i> 3.6. COSAC welcomes the ongoing free trade negotiations between the EU and the U.S. towards reaching a comprehensive and ambitious TTIP agreement, as well as the potential positive impact of the agreement on the EU and U.S. economies in terms of more opportunities for growth and employment.		

3.7. COSAC stresses that the EU has set and enforces high standards on food safety, health, animal welfare, the environment, labour, consumers and data protection; therefore, COSAC calls on the European Commission to safeguard these standards and to anchor them globally while ensuring effective free trade through removal of unnecessary regulatory barriers and increased regulatory cooperation.		
	33	<p><i>Ireland</i></p> <p>NEW 3.7.a. COSAC calls on the European Commission to continue to assist EU workers if and where job displacement does occur in the short term, by means of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.</p>
3.8. COSAC notes that the majority of Parliaments have held debates on TTIP in a wide variety of fora and many intend to carry on with further discussions; in this regard, COSAC stresses the important role of Parliaments in ensuring the democratic legitimacy and further transparency of the TTIP negotiation process and raising the awareness among citizens.		
3.9. Moreover, COSAC urges the governments of EU Member States to step up their communication on the opportunities and challenges of TTIP and other free trade agreements currently being negotiated, thus keeping their citizens informed on the potential economic impact of TTIP on their respective economies.		
3.10. COSAC welcomes the transparency initiative for TTIP negotiations launched by the European Commission in November 2014 which upholds and promotes openness and information sharing with all stakeholders; COSAC believes that information on the progress of negotiations needs to be delivered in a more detailed and transparent way than has hitherto been the case while striking the right balance between the provision of information to Parliaments, their involvement in the negotiation process and ensuring the necessary confidentiality of the negotiations.		
4. Fight against Terrorism and EU-Wide Passenger Name Record Framework		

4.1. COSAC welcomes the Statement by the members of the European Council adopted at the informal meeting held in Brussels on 12 February 2015 expressing a commitment to step up action against terrorist threats in full compliance with human rights and the rule of law.		
4.2. COSAC acknowledges the need for better implementation and further development of already existing tools, and highlights the importance of agreeing on a single EU-wide framework for Passenger Name Record data as one of the most urgent and appropriate counter-terrorism measures.	34	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>4.2. COSAC acknowledges the need for better implementation and further development of already existing tools; it calls on the Commission and the Council to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the EU's counter-terrorism and related measures, in particular as regards the implementation thereof in law and in practice in the Member States and the degree to which the Member States cooperate with the EU's agencies in the area, notably Europol and Eurojust and to introduce this evaluation process as part of the European Agenda on Security; it highlights the importance of agreeing on a single EU-wide framework for Passenger Name Record data as one of the most urgent counter-terrorism measures.</p>
4.3. COSAC invites all relevant EU institutions to reach an agreement on the proposal for a directive on the use of Passenger Name Record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime, thus ensuring enhanced security for all EU citizens while observing the standards enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.	35	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>4.3. COSAC invites all relevant EU institutions to reach an agreement on the proposal for a directive on the use of Passenger Name Record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime, thus ensuring enhanced security for all EU citizens while observing the standards enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; stresses that all data collection and sharing, including by EU agencies such as Europol, should be compliant with EU and national law and based on a coherent data protection framework offering legally binding personal data protection standards at an EU level;</p>
	36	<p><i>Romania</i></p> <p>NEW 4.4. COSAC invites the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy and Security Policy to promote a change in the approach to measures in the foreign and security policies of the EU and Member States, in such a way</p>

		as to give anti-terror measures substance and priority, in accordance to the risk they represent.
5. Security Concerns in the Middle East and North African Regions		
5.1. COSAC draws attention to the enormous challenges that the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region is posing to the EU, namely the expansion of terrorist organisations and the catastrophic human tragedies brought about by human trafficking in the Mediterranean. Appalled by the scale of the recent tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expresses deepest condolences to the families of victims.	37	<p><i>Cyprus</i></p> <p>5.1. COSAC draws attention to the enormous challenges that the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region is posing to the EU, namely military or other interventions, civil wars or other conflicts, the expansion of terrorist organisations and the catastrophic human tragedies brought about by human trafficking in the Mediterranean. Appalled by the scale of the recent tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expresses deepest condolences to the families of victims.</p>
	38	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>5.1. COSAC draws attention to the enormous challenges that the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region is posing to the EU, namely the expansion of terrorist organisations and the catastrophic human tragedies brought about by human trafficking migrant smuggling in the Mediterranean. Appalled by the scale of the recent tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expresses deepest condolences to the families of victims.</p>
	39	<p><i>Romania</i></p> <p>5.1. COSAC draws attention to the enormous challenges that the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region is posing to the EU, namely the expansion of terrorist organisations and the catastrophic human tragedies brought about by human trafficking, or sponsoring of illegal migration in the</p>

		Mediterranean. Appalled by the scale of the recent tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expresses deepest condolences to the families of victims.
5.2. COSAC notes that the EU still lacks a clear approach to the challenges posed by the Mediterranean basin and, in particular, to cross-Mediterranean migration, and underlines that the EU has a responsibility to take all steps necessary to prevent recurrence of tragedies such as those recently witnessed in the Mediterranean.	40	<p><i>Cyprus</i></p> <p>5.2. COSAC acknowledges notes that the EU still lacks the need for a clearer, more dynamic and practical EU approach to the challenges posed by in the Mediterranean basin and, in particular, to cross-Mediterranean migration and underlines that it the EU has a responsibility to take all steps necessary to prevent recurrence of tragedies such as those recently witnessed in the Mediterranean.</p>
	41	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>5.2. COSAC notes that the EU still lacks a clear EU is in the process of developing its comprehensive approach to towards the challenges posed by occurring in the Mediterranean basin and, in particular, to cross-Mediterranean migration, and underlines that it has a responsibility to take all steps necessary to prevent recurrence of tragedies such as those recently witnessed in the Mediterranean.</p>
	42	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>5.2. COSAC notes that the EU still lacks a clear approach to the challenges posed by the Mediterranean basin and, in particular, to cross-Mediterranean migration, and underlines that it has a responsibility to take all steps necessary to prevent recurrence of tragedies such as those recently witnessed in the Mediterranean; COSAC calls for a robust and permanent humanitarian European rescue operation, which, like Mare Nostrum, would operate on the high seas and to which all Member States would contribute financially and with equipment and assets; urges the EU to co-fund such an operation;</p>

	43	<p><i>Ireland</i></p> <p>NEW 5.2. a. COSAC calls for a whole of Europe response to the crisis situation. It is of the opinion that all Members States have an obligation to assist people fleeing from war and that the utmost should be done to assist people fleeing poverty and persecution in their home countries. COSAC acknowledges that some Member States are accepting more refugees and immigrants than others and that this is placing significant burdens on the resources and finances of these Member States.</p>
5.3. In this context, COSAC welcomes the commitment of the extraordinary European Council of 23 April 2015 expressed in its Statement to take a number of specific measures aimed at strengthening the EU's presence at sea, fighting traffickers in accordance with international law, preventing illegal migration flows and reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility.	44	<p><i>Sweden</i></p> <p>5.3. In this context, COSAC welcomes the commitment of the extraordinary European Council of 23 April 2015 expressed in its Statement to take a number of specific measures aimed at strengthening the EU's presence at sea, fighting traffickers in accordance with international law, preventing illegal migration flows and reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility. COSAC takes note of the European Council's statement that the EU's immediate priority is to prevent more people from dying at sea and emphasizes EU's duty to protect and save lives. In this context COSAC underlines the importance of legal routes to access asylum in the EU. COSAC notes the joint responsibility to receive and accept people in need.</p>
	45	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>5.3. In this context, COSAC welcomes the commitment of the extraordinary European Council of 23 April 2015 expressed in its Statement to take a number of specific measures aimed at strengthening the EU's presence at sea, fighting traffickers in accordance with international law, preventing illegal migration flows and reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility on voluntary basis.</p>

	46	<p>EP</p> <p>5.3. In this context, COSAC <i>takes note of the conclusions</i> of the extraordinary European Council of 23 April 2015 <i>and calls upon the European Council to fulfill its commitment to</i> take a number of specific measures aimed at strengthening the EU's presence at sea, fighting traffickers in accordance with international law, preventing illegal migration flows and reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility;</p>
	47	<p>Ireland</p> <p>NEW 5.3. a. COSAC calls on the European Commission to explore the option of processing of migrants in a remote area outside of the EU (extra-territorial processing) as a matter of urgency. This could help to eliminate the need for migrants to undertake a dangerous sea crossing and to stem the numbers currently crossing the Mediterranean Sea.</p>
5.4. COSAC stresses the need to develop joint measures in close cooperation with the relevant agencies against criminal networks of migrant traffickers, in order to prevent them from earning money by placing lives at risk; COSAC calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP) and the European Commission as a whole to work together with relevant EU and UN agencies and international organisations to increase cooperation with the countries of origin and transit.	48	<p>Cyprus</p> <p>5.4. COSAC stresses the need to develop joint measures in close cooperation with the relevant EU agencies against criminal networks of migrant traffickers, in order to prevent them from earning money by placing lives at risk; COSAC calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP) and the European Commission as a whole to work together with relevant EU and UN agencies and international organisations to increase cooperation with the countries of origin and transit.</p>
	49	<p>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</p> <p>5.4. COSAC stresses the need to develop joint measures in close cooperation with the relevant agencies against criminal networks of migrant traffickers, in</p>

		order to prevent them from earning money freeze and confiscate their assets gained by placing lives at risk; COSAC calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP) and the European Commission as a whole to work together with relevant EU and UN agencies and international organisations to increase cooperation with the countries of origin and transit.
	50	<i>Romania</i> 5.4. COSAC stresses the need to develop joint measures at EU level in close cooperation with the relevant agencies against criminal networks of migrant traffickers, in order to prevent them from earning money by placing lives at risk; COSAC calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP) and the European Commission as a whole to work together with relevant EU and UN agencies and international organisations to increase cooperation with the countries of origin and transit.
5.5. COSAC looks forward to the European Commission's Communication on the European Agenda for Migration that will enable the development of a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration. Following the latest humanitarian tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expects the Commission to show the strongest possible ambition and come up with common European solutions in the spirit of solidarity and sharing of responsibility among Member States. ³	51	<i>Cyprus</i> 5.5. COSAC looks forward to welcomes the European Commission's Communication on the European Agenda for Migration in the hope that it will enable facilitate the development of developing a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration. Following the latest humanitarian tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expects the Commission to show the strongest possible ambition and come in coming up with common European solutions in the spirit of solidarity and sharing of responsibility among Member States.

³ To be adjusted after the publication of the Commission's Communication

	52	<p><i>Poland (Sejm and Senate)</i></p> <p>5.5. COSAC looks forward welcomes the European Commission's Communication on the European Agenda for Migration, COSAC underlines that this strategic document should will enable developing a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration. Following the latest humanitarian tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expects the welcomes Commission's efforts to show the strongest possible ambition and come up with propose common European solutions aiming at saving lives and dismantling criminal smuggling networks. in the spirit of solidarity and sharing of responsibility among Member States.</p>
	53	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>5.5. COSAC calls for a rapid and full transposition and effective implementation of the Common European Asylum System by all participating Member States, thereby ensuring common European standards, including reception conditions for asylum seekers and respect for fundamental rights, as envisaged under existing legislation; COSAC hopes that the European Commission's Communication on the European Agenda for Migration will enable developing a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration. Following the latest humanitarian tragedies in the Mediterranean, COSAC expects the EU policy in this respect will show the strongest possible ambition and come up with common European solutions in the spirit of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, as stated in Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) of responsibility among Member States.</p>

5.6. COSAC strongly condemns the barbaric killings of innocent civilians by terrorists in Libya, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere in the MENA region. COSAC calls for renewed efforts towards close cooperation with the Muslim countries in the region to defeat the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (<i>Da'esh</i>) and various Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist organisations. COSAC emphasises that the expansion of <i>Da'esh</i> close to the borders of Europe is a major pan-European challenge that calls for the immediate engagement of the whole European Union.	54	<p><i>Romania</i></p> <p>5.6. COSAC strongly condemns the barbaric killings of innocent civilians, and the illegitimate religious claims to justify such acts, by terrorists in Libya, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere in the MENA region. COSAC calls for renewed efforts towards close cooperation with the Muslim countries in the region to defeat the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (<i>Da'esh</i>) and various Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist organisations. COSAC emphasises that the expansion of <i>Da'esh</i> close to the borders of Europe is a major pan-European challenge that calls for the immediate engagement of the whole European Union.</p>
5.7. COSAC welcomes the efforts of the HR/VP in supporting the UN-led negotiations aimed at establishing a government authority in Libya and permanent peace in the region.		
5.8. By highlighting the importance of the MENA region and considering that migration is a global and complex phenomenon, COSAC calls for a holistic approach towards tackling the roots of security challenges in the region, such as poverty and youth unemployment. COSAC urges the EU, its Member States and the international community to contribute to social and democratic development in the countries of origin and to provide <i>ad hoc</i> humanitarian assistance, relief and protection for people in these countries.	55	<p><i>Cyprus</i></p> <p>5.8. By highlighting the importance of the MENA region and considering that migration is a global and complex phenomenon, COSAC calls for a holistic approach towards tackling the roots of security challenges in the region, such as poverty, inequality, ethnic and other conflicts, foreign invasions and interventions in domestic affairs, terrorism, oppression, illiteracy and youth unemployment. COSAC urges the EU, its Member States and the international community to contribute to peace, economic, social and democratic development in the countries of origin and to provide <i>ad hoc</i> immediate humanitarian assistance, relief and protection for people in these countries and, in the longer term, help with investments and structural reforms in those countries.</p>
	56	<p><i>EP</i></p> <p>5.8. By highlighting the importance of the MENA region and considering that migration is a global and complex phenomenon, COSAC calls for a holistic EU approach towards tackling the roots of security challenges in the region, such as poverty and youth unemployment, by strengthening the coherence of its common foreign and security policy, development policy and migration</p>

		policy. COSAC urges the EU, its Member States and the international community to contribute to economic , social and democratic development in the countries of origin and to provide <i>ad hoc</i> humanitarian assistance, relief and protection for people in these countries.
	57	<p>Romania</p> <p>5.8. By highlighting the importance of the MENA region and considering that migration is a global and complex phenomenon, COSAC calls for a holistic approach towards tackling the roots of security challenges in the region, such as poverty and youth unemployment and radicalisation. COSAC urges the EU, its Member States and the international community to contribute to social and democratic development in the countries of origin and to provide <i>ad hoc</i> humanitarian assistance, relief and protection for people in these countries.</p>
6. Outcomes of the Eastern Partnership Summit		
6.1. COSAC welcomes the results of the Riga Summit and reiterates the principal role of the Eastern Partnership as an important dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy. COSAC highlights the importance of the Eastern Partnership as a joint political platform which greatly contributes to the processes of reforms and democratisation in the Eastern European partner countries, while fully respecting and responding to the level of ambitions and goals of each respective Partner country to develop and deepen their relations with the European Union.		
6.2. COSAC concurs with the positive assessment of the implementation of the Association Agreements given in the Riga Declaration, especially the positive aspects which the application of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) has had on the increase in trade between the EU and Georgia and Moldova and consequently looks forward to the successful implementation of the DCFTA with Ukraine starting from 1 January 2016.		

6.3. Likewise, COSAC supports the Riga Declaration on the enhanced mobility of citizens as a core objective of the Eastern Partnership. COSAC welcomes the positive effect of people-to-people contacts that the visa free regime has already brought in Moldova and hopes that following the implementation of all required reforms in Georgia and Ukraine the European Commission will give a positive assessment of the progress in the implementation of their Visa Liberalization Actions Plans by the end of 2015.		