

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC Copenhagen, Denmark, 22 April 2012

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

IN THE CHAIR: Ms Eva KJER HANSEN (*Folketinget*, Denmark).

Mr Andrzej GAŁAŻEWSKI, Ms Alicja OLECHOWSKA, Ms Małgorzata SADURSKA, Mr Andrzej SZTORC (*Sejm*, Poland), Mr Edmund WITTBRODT, Mr Marek ZIÓŁKOWSKI (*Senat*, Poland), Mr Averof NEOFYTOU (*Vouli ton Antiprosopon*, Cyprus), Mr Miguel Ángel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ and Mr Carlo CASINI (European Parliament).

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda of the meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC**
- 2. Approval of the draft programme of the XLVII COSAC**
- 3. Presentation of the 17th Bi-annual Report of COSAC**
- 4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVII COSAC**
- 5. Letters received by the Presidency**
- 6. Any other business**

PROCEEDINGS

1. Adoption of the agenda of the meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC

The meeting was chaired by Ms Eva KJER HANSEN, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish *Folketing*, who welcomed the delegations of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (hereinafter referred to as "the Troika").

The agenda of the meeting of the Troika was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of the draft programme of the XLVII COSAC

Ms KJER HANSEN highlighted the debates that would be held over the next two days. The guest speakers included the President of the European Commission and three other Commissioners, the Prime Minister of Denmark, and Mr Malcolm HARBOUR, Chair of the Committee for Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the European Parliament. The agenda was focused on the Single Market.

The draft programme of the meeting of the XLVII COSAC was adopted without amendment.

3. Presentation of the 17th Bi-annual Report of COSAC

Ms KJER HANSEN thanked the COSAC Secretariat for their excellent work in producing the 17th Bi-annual Report of COSAC and invited the Permanent Member of the secretariat, Ms Libby KURIEN, to give a short presentation of the Report.

Ms KURIEN explained that the 17th Bi-annual Report examined two questions: a) the extent to which national Parliaments had been involved in the debate on the re-launch of the Single Market; and b) the different practices in national Parliaments relating to access to EU documents and databases made available by governments. She then provided some more details about the content of the two chapters of the Report.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ welcomed that all Parliaments/Chambers had responded to the questionnaire, as it showed that all members of COSAC were engaged in the issues. He said that the exercise of producing the report was developing well.

Mr WITTBRODT said that the Report contained useful information. He added that, in future, it may be useful to investigate the reasons why the threshold that would trigger a subsidiarity check had not been reached.

4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVII COSAC

Ms KJER HANSEN said that the Presidency had received amendments from the European Parliament and the Polish *Sejm* in advance of the meeting. If agreeable to the Troika, she would propose a deadline for all other amendments to be tabled by lunchtime on Monday 23 April 2012 in order to give sufficient time for translation, processing the amendments and giving notice to all delegations.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ supported this proposal, saying that it should be strictly applied and become normal practice in the future.

5. Letters received by the Presidency

Ms KJER HANSEN suggested that in future this point of the agenda could be dealt with via correspondence before the meeting of the Troika. She reported that the Presidency had received three letters, of which the Troika took note:

- A letter from Ms Ine M. ERIKSEN SØREIDE, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and Chair of the European Consultative Committee of the Norwegian *Storting*, asking to participate as a guest in the XLVII COSAC, to which a positive response was sent after consultation with the Troika;
- A letter from Ms Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA, Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee of the Latvian *Saeima*, regarding a statement from the European Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on the Single Market and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; and
- A letter from Mr Česlovas Vytautas STANKEVIČIUS, Deputy Speaker of the Lithuanian *Seimas*, regarding a statement from the European Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the opening of EU accession negotiations with FYROM.

In response to questions from Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ and Mr WITTBRODT, Ms KJER HANSEN said that the letters would be noted but not replied to.

6. Any other business

Ms KJER HANSEN invited the Polish Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments to report on the outcome of the conference that had been held in Warsaw on 19-21 April 2012.¹

Mr Andrzej GAŁAŻEWSKI said that the conference had discussed a number of topics including the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP, on which he would focus his comments. He was pleased to report that the conference had agreed to hold an Inter-parliamentary Conference on CFSP and CSDP as soon as possible to replace existing meetings of COFACC and CODACC. A number of outstanding issues from the meeting in Brussels in April 2011 had been resolved. The delegation sizes would be six for every national Parliament, 16 for the European Parliament and four for parliaments with observer status. Two years after the first meeting, there would be a review of the conference and if necessary the rules of procedure would be modified.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ praised the Polish hosts for their work in finding a compromise. He noted that the Conference would take place either in the country holding the Presidency of the EU Council or at the European Parliament premises. It would be prepared and presided by the national Parliament of the Presidency country with the previous and the next presidencies, in close cooperation with the European Parliament. He said that he may have difficulty explaining the result to the European Parliament but hoped the debate would now rather focus on who would represent the European Parliament.

Mr GAŁAŻEWSKI said that the secretariat of this conference would be independent of the COSAC Secretariat as it would be a separate body. Mr NEOFYTOU announced that the first conference would be hosted by the Cypriot Presidency in the second half of 2012.

In concluding the Troika meeting, Ms KJER HANSEN announced that the COSAC website would be updated as it was necessary to change the platform of the website. This would be done during the Danish Presidency as the website had originally been set up during the 2002 Danish Presidency.

¹ Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, Presidency Conclusions, 21.04.2012
http://www.parl2011.pl/prezydencja.nsf/attachments/DKUS-8SYGLC/%24File/conclusions_PL_EN_FR.pdf