

CONTRIBUTION XLVI

Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)

Warsaw, 2-4 October 2011

1. Multiannual Financial Framework

- 1.1. Having regard to the ongoing economic and financial crisis, the problems of excessive budget deficits forcing many Member States to implement far-reaching austerity programmes, and social unrest feeding euroscepticism on the one hand, and the growing needs and challenges related to sustainable economic development of the European Union, the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and keeping up with global competition on the other hand, COSAC supports the efforts of the EU institutions resulting in the proposed the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, which will provide a development impetus to the European Union.

Amendments:

AU-NATIONALRAT

Having regard to the ongoing economic and financial crisis, the problems of excessive budget deficits forcing many Member States to implement far-reaching austerity programmes, and social unrest feeding euroscepticism on the one hand, and the growing needs and challenges related to sustainable economic development of the European Union, the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and keeping up with global competition on the other hand, COSAC supports the efforts of the EU institutions resulting in the proposed Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, which will provide a development impetus to the European Union. However, the result of the discussion has to take into account the national budget frameworks and the national budget strategies.

CZ-SENATE

Having regard to the ongoing economic and financial crisis, in some Member States the problems of excessive budget deficits forcing many-a number of Member States to implement far-reaching austerity programmes, and social unrest feeding euroscepticism on the one hand, and the growing needs and challenges related to sustainable economic development of the

European Union, the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and keeping up with global competition on the other hand, COSAC supports the efforts of the EU institutions resulting in the proposed ~~the~~ Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, which will provide a development impetus to the European Union.

FR-ASSEMBLE NATIONALE

~~Having regard to the ongoing economic and financial crisis, the problems of excessive budget deficits forcing many Member States to implement far-reaching austerity programmes, and social unrest feeding euroscepticism on the one hand, and the growing needs and challenges related to sustainable economic development of the European Union, the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and keeping up with global competition on the other hand, COSAC supports the efforts of the EU institutions resulting in the proposed the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, which will provide a development impetus to the European Union.~~

Taking into account, from one side, the extensiveness of the current economic and financial crisis, the burden of the public debt as well as of the deficit requesting a strong effort of budgetary adjustment, as well as growing of euro-skepticism in the social context which is heavily shivered by the crisis and, from other side, taking into account the necessity to answer to the needs and challenges of the economic growth in order to stop the perspective of decline of the European Union and to build the basis of the prosperity in a new global competitive order, the COSAC strongly supports the definition of the Multi-annual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020 which is able to give a new impetus for a development of the European Union.

UK-HOUSE OF LORDS

Having regard to the ongoing economic and financial crisis, the problems of excessive budget deficits forcing many Member States to implement far-reaching austerity programmes, and social unrest feeding euroscepticism on the one hand, and the growing needs and challenges related to sustainable economic development of the European Union, the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and keeping up with global competition on the other hand, COSAC supports the efforts of the EU institutions resulting in the proposed ~~the~~ Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, which will provide a ~~development impetus to~~ basis for debate and decision in the European Union.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Having regard to the ongoing economic and financial crisis, the problems of excessive budget deficits forcing many Member States to implement far-reaching austerity programmes, and social unrest feeding euroscepticism on the one hand, and the growing needs and challenges related to sustainable economic development of the European Union, the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and keeping up with global competition on the other hand, COSAC welcomes the Commission's proposal on the new Multi-annual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 and on the reform of the system of own resources, supports the efforts of the EU institutions resulting in the proposed Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, which will provide a development impetus to the European Union.

- 1.2. COSAC considers it necessary to simplify and increase the transparency of the rules and procedures related to the accumulation, allocation and utilisation of the European Union's own resources and encourages the EU institutions to take appropriate measures in this area.

Amendments:

UK-HOUSE OF LORDS

COSAC considers it necessary to simplify and increase the transparency of the rules and procedures related to the accumulation, allocation and utilisation of the European Union's own resources and encourages the EU institutions to take appropriate measures in this area. National Parliaments and the European Parliament will consider the merits of these specific measures in due course.

- 1.3. COSAC has been carefully analysing proposals for the establishment of different types of European taxes which would provide a new source of revenue for the EU budget. COSAC takes the view that in the period of recovery from the crisis new instruments should not impose an increased financial burden on the private sector or on individuals. In certain cases, such measures could also distort the level playing field between EU entities and their global competitors.

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COSAC has been carefully analysing proposals for the establishment of different types of European taxes which would provide a new source of revenue for the EU budget. COSAC takes the view that in the period of recovery from the crisis new

instruments should not impose an increased financial burden on ~~the private sector or on individuals. In certain cases, such measures could also distort the level playing field between EU entities and their global competitors. citizens, but contribute to the prevention of future crises. Therefore, COSAC strongly supports the efforts of the EU institutions to introduce a financial transaction tax as soon as possible.~~

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In the respect of maintaining European competitiveness and without raising fiscal burden to the households in the economic downgraded context, COSAC judges essential that the European Union dispose of stable, sufficient and clear resources and that the European Union acts in an efficient way against the fiscal competition between Member States which destroys confidence and handicaps the crucial effort of budgetary recovery.

NL-STATES-GENERAL

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UK-HOUSE OF LORDS

COSAC has been carefully analysing proposals for the establishment of different types of European taxes which would provide a new source of revenue for the EU budget. COSAC takes the view that in the period of recovery from the crisis any new instruments should not impose an increased financial burden on the private sector or on individuals. In certain cases, such measures could also distort the level playing field between EU entities and their global competitors.

Komentarz [Tnu1]: This paragraph shall be deleted as the subject of taxation is not on the COSAC agenda.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COSAC has been carefully analysing proposals for the establishment of different types of European taxes which would provide a new source of revenue for the EU budget. COSAC takes the view that in the period of recovery from the crisis new instruments should not impose an increased financial burden on the private sector or on individuals. ~~In certain cases, such measures could also distort the level playing field between EU entities and their global competitors. The reform of the system of own resources should aim at more transparency for the citizens/tax payers.~~

- 1.4. In the light of the complexity of the current circumstances and the number of problems relating to the need to improve the planning, approval and performance of the future EU budgets, COSAC encourages the competent institutions to accelerate the legislative work in this area and, where possible, to undertake more frequent and extensive social consultations.

Amendments:

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In respect of national responsibilities concerning rapid return to the budgetary equilibrium, COSAC is very attentive to debates on the possibility to introduce European "projects bonds" designed to finance big common projects which are vital for the success of the Europe 2020 Strategy. All this in addition to better sharing in particular fields of budgets of voluntary Member States may contribute in a decisive manner to the common competitiveness.

Taking into account ~~In the light of~~ the complexity of the current circumstances and the number of problems relating to the need to improve the planning, approval and performance of the future EU budgets, and in the light of the necessary

Komentarz [Tnu2]: We consider this paragraph too vague and unclear, and therefore we would appreciate if the paragraph could be redrafted to explain what legislative work needs to be accelerated.
Alternatively, this paragraph could be left out altogether, given its very general nature and minor added value.

complementarity between EU and national budgets. COSAC encourages the competent institutions to accelerate the legislative work in this area and, where possible, to undertake more frequent and extensive social consultations.

- 1.5. COSAC encourages the EU institutions to develop and adopt the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 that will enable the medium and long-term EU policies to be fully implemented in compliance with the European principle of solidarity.

Amendments:

NL-STATES-GENERAL

COSAC encourages the EU institutions to develop and adopt the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 period. that will enable the medium and long-term EU policies to be fully implemented in compliance with the European principle of solidarity.

LT & LV joint proposal

COSAC encourages the EU institutions to develop and adopt the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 that will enable the medium and long-term EU policies to be fully implemented in compliance with the European principle of solidarity In this context COSAC stresses that Cohesion policy together with fair and equitable Common agricultural policy are the essential instruments and play important role in fostering solidarity, reducing economic and social disparities among the Member States and achieving EU strategic goals, should remain focused on further growth and development of the least developed regions.

UK-HOUSE OF LORDS

COSAC encourages the EU institutions to develop and adopt the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 that will enable the medium and long-term EU policies to be fully implemented in compliance with the European principle of solidarity and with regard to the ongoing economic and financial crisis.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COSAC encourages the EU institutions to develop-negotiate and adopt the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 that will enable the medium and long-term EU policies to be fully implemented in compliance with the European principle of solidarity.

NEW PARAGRAPH 1.6.

ES-CORTES GENERALES

COSAC calls on European institutions not to reduce the agriculture subsidies, provided in the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2007-2013.

NEW PARAGRAPH 1.7.

LT & LV joint proposal

COSAC emphasizes the particular importance of EU funding for the projects of European interest which are commercially unviable but are essential for achieving EU policy objectives of well-functioning internal market.

NEW PARAGRAPH 1.8.

NL-STATES-GENERAL

COSAC welcomes the announcement of the Polish presidency to organise a conference on the Multiannual Financial Framework on 20-21 October 2011. COSAC also welcomes the Presidency's intention to invite representatives of national parliaments and stresses the importance of an early involvement of national Parliaments.

NEW PARAGRAPH 1.9.

NL-STATES-GENERAL

COSAC encourages the EU institutions to include the objective of improving the accountability and transparency of the management of EU funds during the Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations. COSAC calls on Member States, with due regard to the position of the European Commission, to improve accountability and transparency of the spending of EU funds at the national level.

2. Two years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon – parliamentary experience

- 2.1 COSAC notes with satisfaction its first debate on the evaluation of parliamentary experience and best practice two years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

- 2.2 COSAC welcomes active involvement of national Parliaments in subsidiarity checks under Protocol 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality of the Treaty of Lisbon. National Parliaments have taken different points of view on the practical implementation of the principle of subsidiarity. COSAC believes that national Parliaments and the EU institutions should actively exchange information and their existing practices on the application of Protocol 2, and that its application should become more specific as part of a continuous dialogue between all parties concerned.
- 2.3 In accordance with Article 5 of Protocol 2, COSAC underlines that for national Parliaments to exercise the powers vested in them it is necessary to enable the financial effects of EU draft legislative acts to be evaluated. Moreover, COSAC recalls that EU draft legislative acts should be justified on the basis of qualitative and quantitative indicators.
- 2.4 COSAC notes the concerns of national Parliaments with the quality and independent nature of impact assessments of EU draft legislative acts which at times are considered to be schematic and not satisfactory in substance. COSAC draws attention to the suggestion by a number of national Parliaments to have the full text of impact assessments translated into all official languages of the EU.
- 2.5 COSAC welcomes the debate it held on the cooperation of national Parliaments with the European Commission. COSAC requests the European Commission to take the results of the debate into account in the Commission's own evaluation of the state of the Union and in preparing the Commission's Work Programmes.
- 2.6 In principle COSAC is satisfied with national Parliaments' close and open cooperation with the European Commission, established under the Treaty of Lisbon. The informal political dialogue between the European Commission and national Parliaments will contribute to strengthening the parliamentary dimension in the EU decision process.
- 2.7 COSAC calls upon the European Commission to provide more precise and substantive replies to reasoned opinions on EU draft legislative acts. Many national Parliaments consider that the European Commission's replies should focus to a greater extent on specific doubts expressed in reasoned opinions submitted by national Parliaments.

Amendments:

DE-BUNDESRAT

COSAC calls upon the European Commission to provide more precise and substantive replies to reasoned opinions on EU draft legislative acts. Many national Parliaments consider that the European Commission's replies should focus to a greater extent on specific doubts expressed in reasoned opinions submitted by national Parliaments. COSAC requests the European Commission to take the necessary steps to ensure that her replies to reasoned opinions or contributions within the scope of the informal political dialog can be transmitted within 3 month.

- 2.8 COSAC notes the concerns voiced by numerous national Parliaments, some of them in reasoned opinions, that the powers granted to the European Commission to regulate by means of delegated acts are too extensive. COSAC notes that this may lead to a situation where essential elements of an area, reserved for the EU draft legislative acts, will be outside the scope of control of national Parliaments.

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COSAC notes the concerns voiced by numerous national Parliaments, some of them in reasoned opinions, that the powers granted to the European Commission to regulate by means of delegated acts are too extensive. COSAC notes that this may lead to a situation where essential elements of an area, reserved for the EU draft legislative acts, will be outside the scope of control of national Parliaments. COSAC notes furthermore that, for the European Parliament, the new provisions on delegated acts are one of the main achievements of the Treaty of Lisbon. Wherever the criteria of Article 290 are met, delegated acts must be included in all relevant European legislation in order to comply with the Treaty.

Komentarz [Tnu3]: The first sentence could be ambiguous and should be thought about. At least the Bundesrat did not criticize the treaty provisions itself. But he repeatedly noted that several Commission proposals did not take the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon into account to a sufficient extent.

- 2.9 Having regard to further interparliamentary cooperation, COSAC stresses the importance of intensified communication as part of the dialogue and exchange of information and best practice between the European Affairs Committees of national Parliaments of the EU Member States.

Amendments:

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Having regard to further interparliamentary cooperation, COSAC stresses the importance of intensified communication as part of the dialogue and exchange of information and best practice between the European Affairs Committees of national Parliaments of the EU Member States and with the European Parliament.

CONTRIBUTION XLVI

Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)

Warsaw, 2-4 October 2011

1. Appointment and Co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat

- 1.1 COSAC thanks Ms Loreta Raulinaitytė for four years of intensive and fruitful work as the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat. During her two terms of office, Ms Loreta Raulinaitytė has performed her duties in reliable, diligent and committed manner, contributing to the tightening and development of interparliamentary cooperation in the European Union.
- 1.2 COSAC welcomes the decision taken by the Chairpersons at its plenary meeting held in Warsaw on 3 October 2011 to appoint Ms/Mr, as a new Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for the term of office of two years from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013 in accordance with Rule 9.3 of the COSAC Rules of Procedure.
- 1.3 COSAC welcomes letters of intent from 38 Parliaments/Chambers expressing their commitment to co-finance the position of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat and the running of the COSAC office and website.
- 1.4 Moreover, COSAC is grateful to the European Parliament for providing the COSAC Secretariat with appropriate office facilities on its premises in Brussels.

2. Bi-annual Report

- 2.1 COSAC welcomes the 16th Bi-annual Report prepared by the COSAC Secretariat and thanks the Secretariat for its excellent work. The Report provides comprehensive information on the present and future role of national Parliaments in cooperation with governments and their scrutiny within the process of establishing the new Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU attuned to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, and the evaluation of parliamentary experience and best practices in the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon.
- 2.2 COSAC is convinced that the 16th Bi-annual Report will provide a valuable source of information on interparliamentary cooperation and set new directions for national Parliaments' further cooperation with the EU institutions.

3. IPEX website

- 3.1 COSAC thanks the IPEX Board for launching the upgraded IPEX website on 28 June 2011 and welcomes the new technological facilities offered by the new platform.

Amendments:

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	COSAC thanks the IPEX Board <u>and in particular the European Parliament for the rewriting of the IPEX website and its launch for launching the upgraded IPEX website</u> on 28 June 2011 and welcomes the new technological facilities offered by the new platform.
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- 3.2 COSAC encourages national Parliaments to timely publish and regularly update the information posted on the IPEX website. The provision of comprehensive and reliable information will contribute to better and more effective interparliamentary cooperation.

Amendments:

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	COSAC encourages <u>invites</u> national Parliaments to timely publish and regularly update the information posted on the IPEX website. The provision of comprehensive and reliable information will contribute to better and more effective interparliamentary cooperation. <u>COSAC encourages national Parliaments to reconsider the role of IPEX correspondents in the light of the new tasks requested for the new website in order to ensure that IPEX becomes a more reliable source of information</u>
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- 3.3 COSAC believes that efficient interparliamentary exchange of information via IPEX makes citizens familiar with the functioning of the European Union and enhances their awareness of EU matters.