

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC
Sejm of the Republic of Poland
Warsaw, 2 October 2011

PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

CHAIR: Mr Stanisław RAKOCZY (*Sejm*, Poland) and Mr Edmund WITTBRODT (*Senat*, Poland).

Mr. Andrzej GAŁAŻEWSKI (*Sejm*, Poland), Ms Eva KJER HANSEN, Ms Pia ADELSTEEN and Mr Nikolaj VILLUMSEN (*Folketing*, Denmark), Mr Richárd HÖRCSIK (*Országgyűlés*, Hungary), Mr Miguel Ángel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ and Mr Carlo CASINI (European Parliament).

Participant with observer status: Mr William CASH (*House of Commons*, UK).

AGENDA (as amended by the Presidential Troika):

- 1. Adoption of the agenda of the meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC**
- 2. Interviewing of candidates for the post of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat**
- 3. Proposal for the nomination of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat**
- 4. Approval of the draft programme of the XLVI COSAC (2-4 October 2011)**
- 5. Presentation of the 16th Bi-annual Report of COSAC**
- 6. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVI COSAC**
- 7. Letters received by the Presidency**
- 8. Any other business**

PROCEEDINGS:

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

The meeting was chaired by Mr Stanisław RAKOCZY, Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee of the *Sejm* of the Republic of Poland, and Mr Edmund WITTBRODT, Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee of the *Senat* of the Republic of Poland.

Mr RAKOCZY welcomed the delegations of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (hereinafter referred to as "the Troika"). He congratulated the Danish delegation on the results of the general elections that had taken place on 15 September 2011 and informed that general elections in Poland would take place on 9 October 2011. The Chairman also welcomed the presence of Mr CASH, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee of the UK *House of Commons*, as an observer.

Mr RAKOCZY then proposed to move point 6 of the agenda forward and directly proceed to the interviewing of the two candidates for the post of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat. There were no objections to this proposal and the amended agenda of the Troika meeting was unanimously adopted.

2. Interviewing of candidates for the post of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat

Mr RAKOCZY referred to Article 9.3 of the Rules of Procedure of COSAC which stipulate that the Permanent Member shall be appointed by the COSAC Chairpersons on the proposal of the Troika and shall remain in office for two years with the possibility of one renewal. The aim was therefore that following the interviews with the candidates the Troika would propose one candidate to the meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC to be held the following day. Mr RAKOCZY reminded the Troika delegations of the "Rules for nominating a candidate for the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat during the Presidential Troika meeting" that they had received a few days earlier from the Polish Presidency of COSAC. As one of the candidates for the post of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat had been nominated by the UK *House of Commons*, the Polish Presidency of COSAC had invited Mr CASH to attend the meeting of the Troika as an observer. Mr RAKOCZY expressed his gratitude to Mr CASH for having accepted the invitation. Furthermore, he stated that the Polish delegation would refrain from actively participating in the interviews and the decision-making process, as the second candidate for the post of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat had been nominated by the *Sejm* of the Republic of Poland. Its role would be limited to moderating and ensuring smooth proceedings. As there were no objections the proposed procedure was unanimously accepted.

Mr RAKOCZY reiterated that according to the aforementioned rules only members of Troika delegations, one member of staff per delegation and the current Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat would be allowed to be present during the interviews with the candidates and that deliberations on the decision would take place in the presence of members of Troika delegations only. After all other participants in the Troika meeting had left the room, the candidates were interviewed *in camera* in alphabetical order. Deliberations between the members of the Troika delegations also took place *in camera*. The Polish delegation and Mr CASH were present but did not actively participate in the deliberations.

3. Proposal for the nomination of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat

Following the deliberations between the members of the Troika delegations all participants were invited back into the meeting room. Mr RAKOCZY then announced the decision taken by the Troika on the course of action to be pursued. Firstly, he informed that the Troika had not reached a consensus on the selection of a candidate to propose to the meeting of the Chairpersons the following day. Secondly, the Chairpersons would be asked to vote on whether they wanted to appoint the new Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat by a secret vote or wished to postpone a decision on the issue until the Danish Presidency, when a new call for candidates

would be announced, while the nomination of the present candidates would remain valid, if the Chambers in question agreed to maintain their candidates. In case the Chairpersons would decide to appoint the new Permanent Member by voting, both candidates would each make a five-minute presentation to the Chairpersons without the possibility for Chairpersons to ask questions. The presentations would immediately be followed by a secret vote.

Mr RAKOCZY thanked both candidates and Mr CASH for their presence.

4. Approval of the draft programme of the XLVI COSAC (2-4 October 2011)

The draft programme of the XLVI COSAC (2-4 October 2011) was unanimously approved.

5. Presentation of the 16th Bi-annual Report of COSAC

Mr Miguel Ángel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ noted with satisfaction that all 41 Chambers/Parliaments had replied to the questionnaire for the 16th Bi-annual Report of COSAC, despite the summer recess and the stringent deadline. Mr RAKOCZY agreed that this was indeed an outstanding result. Mr WITTBRODT briefly mentioned the two chapters of the 16th Bi-annual Report. The first one dealt with the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and the second one with the experiences of national Parliaments and the European Parliament two years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. Mr RAKOCZY thanked the current Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Ms Loreta RAULINAITYTĖ, and the other members of the COSAC Secretariat for their work on the 16th Bi-annual Report.

6. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVI COSAC

Mr Andrzej GAŁAŻEWSKI informed the Troika that so far 28 amendments had been tabled to the draft Contribution and Conclusions. There were many different amendments, some of them overlapping. Mr RAKOCZY concluded that there was no point in elaborating on the amendments at this stage, as the Chairpersons of COSAC would hold an extensive debate on them and take a decision the following day.

7. Letters received by the Presidency

Mr RAKOCZY informed the participants about the letters that the Presidency had received.

In her letter of 23 June 2011 Ms Ine ERIKSEN SØREIDE, Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and of the European Consultative Committee of the Norwegian *Storting*, expressed the wish to attend the XLVI COSAC as a special guest. Mr RAKOCZY explained that this request had been met following consultation with the Troika.

In his letter of 8 September 2011 Mr Česlovas Vytautas STANKEVIČIUS, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the Lithuanian *Seimas*, informed on the conclusions of the meeting of the parliamentary European Affairs Committees of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on 4-6 September 2011 in Lithuania. The Troika took note of the letter.

In his letter of 20 July 2011 Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the European Commission, sent the official reply of the Commission to the Contribution of the XLV COSAC in Budapest. The Troika took note of the letter and the reply of the Commission.

Finally, the Presidency had received a letter from Mr CASH, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee of the UK *House of Commons*, recommending Ms Libby KURIEN for the post of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, and a similar letter from Mr RAKOCZY, Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee of the *Sejm* of the Republic of Poland, recommending Ms Magdalena SKRZYŃSKA for the post of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat.

8. Any other business

As there was no other business, Mr RAKOCZY closed the meeting of the Troika.