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Mr Richárd Horcsik,  
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Lajos Kossuth Square 1  
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24 May 2011

*Dear Colleague,*

## **Proposed amendments to draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLV COSAC**

Thank you for circulating the draft Contribution and Conclusions ahead of the COSAC meeting in Budapest next week.

I would like to suggest three amendments to the text of the contribution and two amendments to the conclusions, which I hope that you and our other colleagues will find acceptable. This covering letter introduces and explains the amendments and for clarity I have set out the textual changes in the attached table.

### **I. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CONTRIBUTION**

#### **Amendment one**

In paragraph 1.3, line four, after "parliamentary involvement" insert "including through their scrutiny of national reform programmes".

My proposal would mean that that paragraph 1.3, which discusses Parliamentary involvement in the European Semester, would include reference to national reform programmes.

#### **Amendments two and three**

In paragraph 2.1, line three, delete "with satisfaction".

In the same paragraph, line seven, at the end insert the following new sentence "We look forward to a new meeting to continue this scrutiny work being convened at the earliest opportunity."

Amendments two and three make it clear that, notwithstanding the important progress made at the last Speakers' Conference, the issue of the future scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP still needs to be resolved.

## **2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CONCLUSION**

### **Amendments four and five**

In paragraph 4, line one, after " hold", insert ", at the Presidency's discretion,".

In paragraph 5, line three, after "place", insert ", at the Presidency's discretion,".

My proposal would mean that should for any reason a Presidency parliament decide not to hold a general policy debate on the Commission's work programme, it would not be bound so to do. I believe this change would provide helpful flexibility for the setting of future agendas.

I look forward to seeing you again in Budapest, for what promises to be a very productive COSAC meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Roper', with a stylized flourish extending from the top right.

The Rt Hon the Lord Roper  
Principal Deputy Chairman of Committees

## ANNEX: TABLE SHOWING PROPOSED TEXTUAL CHANGES

Amendment	Text as it stands	Proposed change
<b>1</b> (To paragraph 1.3, line four, of the draft contribution)	COSAC reaffirms that Parliaments intend to actively participate in this new initiative using their traditional means of parliamentary involvement.	COSAC reaffirms that Parliaments intend to actively participate in this new initiative using their traditional means of parliamentary involvement, <i>including through their scrutiny of national reform programmes.</i>
<b>2 &amp; 3</b> (To paragraph 2.1 of the draft contribution)	COSAC welcomes the ongoing discussion in the framework of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments concerning the future of parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP and notes with satisfaction the progress achieved during the Brussels Speakers' Conference. COSAC considers that the conclusions adopted at this meeting constitute a good starting point for future debates and final decisions concerning the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP.	COSAC welcomes the ongoing discussion in the framework of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments concerning the future of parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP and notes <del>with satisfaction</del> the progress achieved during the Brussels Speakers' Conference. COSAC considers that the conclusions adopted at this meeting constitute a good starting point for future debates and final decisions concerning the parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP. <i>We look forward to a new meeting to continue this scrutiny work being convened at the earliest opportunity.</i>
<b>4</b> (To paragraph 4, line one of the draft conclusions)	COSAC agrees to hold an annual general policy debate during its ordinary meeting in the first semester of the year...	COSAC agrees to hold, <i>at the Presidency's discretion</i> , an annual general policy debate during its ordinary meeting in the first semester of the year...
<b>5</b> (To paragraph 5, line three of the draft conclusions)	COSAC also agrees that the presentation of the Commission's Work Programme for the following year by the President or a Vice-President of the Commission should take place during the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year...	COSAC also agrees that the presentation of the Commission's Work Programme for the following year by the President or a Vice-President of the Commission should take place, <i>at the Presidency's discretion</i> , during the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year...