



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS
SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

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Mr André FLAHAUT
Co-Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs
Chambre des Représentants of the Kingdom of Belgium

21 September 2010
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Mr Philippe MAHOUX
Co-Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs
Sénat of the Kingdom of Belgium

Ref.: parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy

Dear Colleagues,

Let me thank you for the constructive discussions in the previous COSAC Chairpersons' meeting. I strongly believe that this could be a good start towards achieving our common position on the parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) within the COSAC framework.

I have initiated a parliamentary discussion on the future of the CFSP/CSDP at the Lithuanian Seimas. The Seimas Committee on European Affairs together with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on National Security and Defence has reached a common agreement and adopted a joint decision on the issue.

The Lithuanian Seimas is of the opinion that the CSDP should be considered as an integral part of the CFSP. Therefore, we propose to hold inter-parliamentary debates in a forum that would merge two currently existing parliamentary meetings – COFACC and “CODAC”, into a joint forum – the Conference of the Foreign and Defence Affairs Committees (COFDAC). The meetings could be organised on a regular basis with the participation of the representatives from the EU institutions and non-EU Member States. COFDAC would cooperate with COSAC by presenting its conclusions, which could be incorporated in the COSAC final documents.

Please find attached the decision of the Lithuanian Seimas on the parliamentary scrutiny of the CFSP and CSDP.

Yours sincerely,
Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius
Deputy Speaker of the Seimas
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

JOINT DECISION

**PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY OF THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY
AND COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY**

15 September 2010 No. 100-S-9 / No. 104-SPR-7

Vilnius

Taking into consideration that according to the Lisbon Treaty Protocol on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union, the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs may organise inter-parliamentary conferences on specific topics, particularly to debate on matters of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including Common Security and Defence Policy,

Emphasising that after cessation of the existence of the Assembly of the Western European Union there is a generally accepted need to continue inter-parliamentary cooperation on these matters,

Noting the Presidency Conclusions of the Stockholm EU Speakers' Conference and the Contribution of Madrid XLIII COSAC, which underline the importance and the main role of National Parliaments in parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Security and Defence Policy,

Adhering to the principle that inter-parliamentary cooperation should be sustained by using optimal formats,

The Seimas Committee on European Affairs, the Committee on National Security and Defence and the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

- Seek stronger cooperation between National Parliaments on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defence Policy, in order to coordinate and better exercise parliamentary oversight,
- Consider that the most effective way to debate on the Common Security and Defence Policy is to see it as an integral part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy,
- Propose, therefore, to arrange inter-parliamentary debates in a forum which would unite two currently existing parliamentary meetings – Conference of the Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and Conference of the Defence Affairs Committees (“CODAC”), into a

common forum – Conference of the Foreign and Defence Affairs Committees (COFDAC), which implies that:

1. Such debates could be extended beyond parliamentary best practice exchange and deal with the substance of EU policy matters thus contribute to the transparency and efficiency of the European Union decision-making process;
2. COFDAC inter-parliamentary meetings should be organised on a regular basis (e.g. once every six months), with the participation of delegates from parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees;
3. The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU Presidency Defence Minister, and other representatives of the EU institutions could be invited in order to address these meetings. The participation from the non-EU Member States (e.g. NATO Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General, NATO Secretary General, other countries Defence Ministers, when appropriate) should be foreseen.
4. COFDAC will cooperate with COSAC by:
 - presenting possible outcomes of COFDAC debates on the Common Security and Defence Policy at COSAC Ordinary Meetings,
 - incorporating COFDAC conclusions into COSAC final documents.
5. National Parliaments of the EU Presidential Troika will set an agenda of each COFDAC meeting.
6. COFDAC meetings would be organised in cooperation with the COSAC secretariat, the representatives of the National Parliaments of the EU Presidential Troika residing in capitals, the Permanent Representatives of the National Parliaments to the EU.

Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs

Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius

Chairman of the Committee on National Security
and Defence

Arvydas Anušauskas

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Emanuelis Zingeris