



To: Mr André Flahaut  
Co-chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee  
on European Affairs  
Chambre des Représentants of the Kingdom of Belgium  
B – 1008 Brussel

Mr. Philippe Mahoux  
Co-chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee  
on European Affairs  
Sénat of the Kingdom of Belgium  
B – 1049 Brussel

*date* 20 oktober 2010

*subject* Parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP – contribution of the States General of the Netherlands

*our reference*

Dear Colleagues,

In the framework of the current interparliamentary discussion on the future of parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign, Security and Defence Policy of the European Union, we have the pleasure to inform you of the position of the States General of the Netherlands.

In accordance with our replies to the COSAC questionnaire for the 14th Biannual Report of COSAC and **in support of the position of the House of Lords EU Select Committee**, this position entails the following:

- That the parliamentary oversight of matters of CFSP and CSDP is primarily a responsibility of national parliaments;
- That there is a need for parliaments to continue to meet to exercise this oversight and to exchange information, coordinate activities and meet and discuss developments with key EU players;
- That existing meetings of foreign affairs committee and defence committee chairpersons (COFACC and CODAC), possibly in a combined form, are the principal formats to discuss CFSP and CDSP related issues;

- That these meetings, to be organised every semester in Brussels, should discuss the content, strategy and current developments of CFSP and CDSP and could be used to hear and respond to presentations of government ministers or the High Representative and/or her staff;
- That attendance of these meetings could be foreseen by the relevant committees of the European Parliament, as well as by delegates from the non-EU member states which currently have observer or partner status in the WEU, as well as candidate members of the EU;
- That these meetings should be prepared and organised by national parliaments, delegated to the trio presidencies;
- We therefore conclude that our position is closely aligned with that of the House of Lords EU Select Committee and we support their proposal in this regard. Further thought, however, needs to be given to the issue of financing.

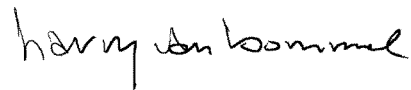
Looking forward to a constructive continuation of this discussion,

Yours sincerely,



Tineke Strik

Chairperson of the Standing Committee  
on European Cooperation Organisations  
Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal



Harry van Bommel

Acting Chairman of the Standing  
Committee on European Affairs  
Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal