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**Note on
proposals for subjects
for
COSAC in 2006**

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Proposals for subjects for COSAC in 2006

Article 7.1 of the Rules of Procedure of COSAC states:

"Before the last ordinary meeting of each year the delegations shall indicate the subjects they propose be dealt with the following year."

Article 7.1 adds that the last ordinary COSAC meeting of the year shall discuss this matter. Article 7.1A stipulates that:

"The principal business on every draft Agenda shall be derived from COSAC's role as a body for exchanging information, in particular on the practical aspects of parliamentary scrutiny."

In accordance with these two rules, at the end of the XXIV COSAC meeting in London in October there will be a discussion about which topics COSAC could deal with in 2006.

In order to inform this discussion, national parliaments were asked to suggest subjects COSAC could deal with in 2006. 19 parliamentary chambers sent proposals to the COSAC secretariat. Their full responses can be found in the annex to the 4th biannual report, which is available on the COSAC website: <http://www.cosac.org/en/documents/biannual/>

Several parliaments did not make any written proposals for subjects COSAC could deal with in 2006. The Austrian Parliament will hold the COSAC Presidency in the first half of 2006, and the Finnish Parliament in the second half of 2006, and so both Parliaments announced that they would not propose any subjects at this stage. Due to the upcoming elections in Germany, the German *Bundestag* explained that it could not predict the specific concerns and priorities of the *Bundestag* for 2006, but it did specify certain general concerns that COSAC could deal with. The Dutch House of Representatives was in recess, and so its members could not be consulted on this issue. The other parliaments not to submit written proposals were: the German *Bundesrat*, Greece, Ireland, Italy (both Houses), Latvia, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia (both Houses), Spain and Sweden.

The table below groups the national parliaments' proposals by subject matter. The subjects most frequently proposed are at the top of the table.

Suggested topics	Parliament
1. Free movement of workers <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Derogations from the principle of the free movement of workers for the new Member States▪ Experience of free movement of workers 18 months after enlargement	Czech Chamber of Deputies, Czech Senate, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Polish Senate, Polish <i>Sejm</i>
2. Area of freedom, security and justice <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Subsidiarity control in the area of freedom, security and justice▪ COSAC and the provisions of the Amsterdam protocol concerning enhanced scrutiny in the area of freedom, security and justice, including the possibility of convening conferences in that area▪ Fight against terrorism (especially parliamentary scrutiny of measures that could limit civil liberties)▪ Immigration policy▪ How to associate national parliaments with the evaluation of the new Member States and their admission into the Schengen area?▪ The proposal for establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights	Cyprus, Denmark, French <i>Assemblée Nationale</i> , French <i>Sénat</i> , Luxembourg, Dutch Senate
3. Constitutional Treaty <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What will be the future of the Constitutional Treaty?▪ How were national parliaments involved in the national debates on the European Integration?	Belgian House of Representatives, Belgian Senate, Hungary, Lithuania, Polish <i>Sejm</i>
4. Free Movement of Services	Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Polish <i>Sejm</i> , Polish Senate
5. Budget and expenditure <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Effective scrutiny of EC budget and expenditures▪ Follow-up on the report “Management and control of the EU finance” which was discussed during the XXXIII COSAC in Luxembourg	German <i>Bundestag</i> , Dutch Senate, UK HC, UK HL
6. Lisbon strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Association of the national parliaments in the elaboration of the national action plans	Belgian House of Representatives, Belgian Senate, Czech Senate, Lithuania

Suggested topics	Parliament
7. Subsidiarity check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COSAC's role <i>vis-a-vis</i> subsidiarity within the existing legal framework ▪ Cooperation of national parliaments on the issue of subsidiarity 	Denmark, German <i>Bundestag</i> , Luxembourg
8. Co-decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An evaluation of the co-decision procedure with special focus on how national parliaments can benefit by an "early scrutiny" of legislative proposals might be initiated and debated. Such an evaluation should include the special challenges faced by national parliaments when legislation is adopted in first reading, as well as an analysis of the inclusion of specialised committees in this scrutiny affects/benefits parliamentary scrutiny. ▪ Ensuring effective national parliamentary scrutiny during co-decision 	Denmark, UK HC, UK HL
9. ESDP, CFSP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parliamentary dimension of ESDP and CFSP ▪ Future of the WEU 	French <i>Sénat</i> , German <i>Bundestag</i> , Portugal
10. EU'S new Eastern dimension and neighbourhood policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ukrainian issue and COSAP request in the context of the EU Neighbourhood policy ▪ EU-Russia relations ▪ EU neighbourhood policy 	Lithuania, Polish <i>Sejm</i> , Polish Senate
11. Scrutiny of the Commission's Annual Work Programme	UK HC, UK HL
12. Financial Perspectives 2007-13	Czech Senate, Polish Senate
13. Transparency in EU-affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ways of engaging citizens and/or organizations in EU-debate and in parliamentary scrutiny 	UK HC, UK HL
14. Compatibility of EU legislation with human rights legislation during scrutiny process	UK HL

Suggested topics	Parliament
15. Regional assemblies with legislative powers and subsidiarity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How national parliamentary scrutiny of EU legislation can, given the constitutional and political context of each individual Member State, take account of the role, work and views of regional assemblies, in particular regional assemblies with legislative powers, and in particular with regard to the monitoring of subsidiarity ? 	UK HL
16. Comitology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How effective scrutiny can be ensured with regard to decisions being taken in comitology committees: noting that many such decisions are highly technical and specialised but nevertheless stressing the need to ensure that politically and legally significant items are subject to proper and effective scrutiny? 	UK HL
17. Cultural and ethnic problems in the Balkans	Polish Senate
18. Balance between economic reform and social policy	Portugal