

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC

Bucharest, Romania, 23 June 2019

## **PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

CHAIRS: Mr Angel TÎLV R, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee, Romanian *Camera Deputaţilor*; Ms Gabriela CREȚU, Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee, Romanian *Senat*.

Mr Christian BUCHMANN, Chair of the EU Committee, Austrian *Bundesrat*; Mr Jani MÄKELÄ, First Deputy Chairperson of the Grand Committee, Finnish *Eduskunta*.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC**
- 2. Approval of the draft programme of the LXI COSAC**
- 3. Presentation of the 31st Bi-annual Report of COSAC**
- 4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the LXI COSAC**
- 5. Letters received by the Presidency**
- 6. Any other business**

## **PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC**

Mr Angel TÎLV R, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee, Romanian *Camera Deputaţilor*, welcomed the delegations of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (hereinafter referred to as "the Troika") and thanked them for their support and cooperation.

The agenda of the meeting of the Troika was then adopted without amendment.

### **2. Approval of the draft programme of the meeting of the LXI COSAC**

Mr TÎLV R then briefly outlined the programme of the meeting of the LXI COSAC to be held the following day and which would consist of four sessions:

- ) Session I: Achievements of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union;
- ) Session II: Prospects for international trade relations of the European Union; the future of relations between the European Union and the UNITED KINGDOM in the context of "Brexit";
- ) Session III: The European Education Area as a driving factor for reshaping and strengthening the Single Market;
- ) Session IV: Economy based on innovation, technological progress and social European Union impact; the role of national parliaments in fostering the "New Economy" of the EU.

The draft programme of the LXI COSAC was approved without amendment.

### **3. Presentation of the 31st Bi-annual Report of COSAC**

Mr TÎLV R invited the Permanent Member of the COSAC secretariat, Mr Kenneth CURMI, to present the 31st Bi-annual Report of COSAC based on Parliaments' replies to the related questionnaire circulated to delegations on 18 February 2019 with the deadline for submitting replies on 19 March 2019.

Mr CURMI briefly referred to the three chapters of the Report: the first one concentrated on prospects of international trade relations of the European Union and the future of relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom in the context of Brexit; the second one dealt with the European Education Area as a driving factor for reshaping and strengthening the Single Market; and the third and final chapter addressed the economy based on innovations, technological progress and social impact and the role of Parliaments in fostering the “New Economy” of the European Union.

Before moving on to the next point on the agenda, the Chair thanked the COSAC Secretariat for their work in compiling the informative report.

### **4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the LXI COSAC**

The draft text of the Contribution and the Conclusions was circulated to delegations on 11 June 2019. One amendment had been received regarding the Conclusions, which was accepted by the Troika, endorsing the resulting new draft based on the text proposed by the Presidency.

Regarding the draft Contribution, amendments received from delegations by 14 June 2019 were translated into French and, together with the initial text, included in a table, which had been distributed to all delegations. A number of compromise proposals elaborated by the Presidency were submitted to the Troika, with the latter agreeing to a modified text of the draft Contribution.

### **5. Letters received by the Presidency**

The Chair referred to the following letters received by the Presidency:

- The Chair referred to all the letters received by the Presidency, both before and after the Chairpersons meeting, namely letters from Ms Karin KELLER-SUTTER, President of the EFTA/EU Delegation of the Swiss Federal Assembly; Ms Tamar KHULORDAVA, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Parliament of Georgia; Mr Fabrice NOTARI, Chair of the Monitoring Committee on Negotiations with the European Union, and Mr Stéphane VALERI, Speaker, *Conseil National* of the Principality of Monaco; Ms Tone Wilhelmsen TRØEN, President of the Norwegian *Storting*; Ms Aslaug Arna SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR, Chair of the Standing-Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Icelandic Althingi; and from Ms Blerta DELIU-KODRA, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Assembly of Kosovo\*, regarding participation in COSAC. Following consultation with the Troika, letters of invitation had been sent out. A number of invitation letters were also sent out to other Parliaments.
- Letter from Mr Václav HAMPL, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs, Czech *Senát*, asking the LXI COSAC to urge the European institutions into action regarding the exclusion of the Christmas/New Year period from the eight-week deadline for submitting reasoned opinions. Mr TÎLV R thanked the Troika for their cooperation on this issue.

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with Resolution 1244 of the United Nations Security Council and to the opinion of the ICJ on the declaration of independence of Kosovo.

- Letter from Mr L'uboš BLAHA, Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs, Slovak *Národná rada*, informing participants about the meeting of the Visegrad countries - Serbia held in Bratislava on 16 - 18 June 2019 and sharing the conclusions adopted at this meeting.
- Letter from Ms Tamar KHULORDAVA, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Parliament of Georgia, requesting to discuss the issue of Georgia's security and sovereignty during the LXI COSAC. Mr TÎLV R noted that the President had informed Ms KHULORDAVA that the agenda had already been adopted by the Romanian Parliament and also approved at the Chairpersons meeting held in Bucharest earlier that year, meaning that the matter could not be included as a subject during the plenary meeting. Nevertheless, the Georgian delegation would have the opportunity to take the floor during the debate to raise the topic.
- Letter from Mr Jean BIZET, Chairman of the Committee of European Affairs, French *Sénat*, requesting to discuss voluntary civil security work (in relation to the recent 'Matzak' ruling) during the LXI COSAC.
- Letters from Ms Mairead McGUINNESS and Ms Danuta HÜBNER, European Parliament, indicating that they would not be able to participate to the meeting.
- Letter from Mr Pieter OMTZIGT and Ms Renske LEIJTEN, Dutch *Tweede Kamer* inviting delegates for a discussion on transparency in Council.

## 6. Any other business

Mr TÎLV R referred to the co-financing mechanism and recalled that letters were sent to Parliaments/Chambers by the Romanian Presidency inviting them to contribute. Thus far, the Presidency had received 29 letters from almost all Parliaments/Chambers. He added that a reminder would be delivered during the COSAC plenary.

Ms Gabriela CREȚU referred to the proposal made during the Chairpersons meeting in January by Mr Kristian VIGENIN, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, Bulgarian *Narodno Sabranie*, regarding possible participation at COSAP meetings. Ms CREȚU recalled that it had been decided to attend in case of an invitation: such an invitation was indeed received, and she had attended the conference together with Mr VIGENIN.

Mr Christian BUCHMANN, Chair of the EU Committee, Austrian *Bundesrat*, referred to the discussion on the Western Balkans, and efforts to bring them closer to the EU. Macedonia had done a lot of good work to solve its problems, while Albania had also shown a lot of effort in this regard. Mr BUCHMANN thanked colleagues for their cooperation, especially during the Austrian Presidency, which had proved successful. He especially thanked the Romanian colleagues for their good work during their Presidency.

The Chair thanked Mr BUCHMANN in return, and promised the forthcoming Finnish Presidency the same cooperation offered by the Austrians.

Mr Jani MÄKELÄ, First Deputy Chairperson of the Grand Committee, Finnish *Eduskunta* thanked the Romanian colleagues for their work and promised to build upon this, adding that most of the topics on the agenda would also be on the agenda during the Finnish Presidency, including Brexit and topical subjects like the economy, Ukraine and relations with Iran.

Ms CREȚU joined the chair in thanking Mr BUCHMANN for the support shown during their Presidency. Mr TÎLV R then closed the meeting.