

REPLIES TO THE PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL: SUMMARY (last updated 1 February 2012)

THE SUMMARY APPLIES ONLY TO THE ISSUES WHICH WERE NOT SOLVED DURING THE CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF EU PARLIAMENTS HELD ON 3-5 APRIL 2011 IN BRUSSELS

COUNTRY	CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT	SPEAKER OF THE CHAMBER (*AUTHOR OF THE REPLY)	SIZE OF THE DELEGATION OF PARTICIPANTS		SIZE OF THE DELEGATION OF OBSERVERS	SECRETARIAT	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
			NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT				
Poland	Sejm	Ewa Kopacz	4+2	16	1+1	no reference to this issue		
	Senate	Bogdan Borusewicz						
Austria	Federal Council – Bundesrat	Susanne Neuwirth (*Barbara Prammer on behalf of both chambers)	4+2	16	no direct reference to this issue, support for the presidency's proposal		support for the Polish proposal provided that all 6 members of national parliaments' delegations can attend and take the floor	
	National Council – Nationalrat	Barbara Prammer	4+2	16	no direct reference to this issue, support for the presidency's proposal		support for the Polish proposal provided that all 6 members of national parliaments' delegations can attend and take the floor	
Bulgaria	National Assembly	Tsetska Tsatcheva	4+2	16	no direct reference to this issue, support for the presidency's proposal			
Cyprus	House of Representatives	Yannakis L. Omirou	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament		no direct reference to this issue	no direct reference to this issue		
Czech Republic	Senate	Milan Štěch	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament		no direct reference to this issue	no direct reference to this issue	ready to agree to the suggested compromise, in case a clear majority of national parliaments accept it	
	Chamber of Deputies	Miroslava Němcova (*Jan Bauer, David Vondrážka)	i.e.6	i.e. 6; the European Parliament delegation equal to delegation of a single national parliament	no direct reference to this issue		*Foreign Affairs Committee, Committee on European Affairs	
Denmark	Folketinget	Mogens Lykketoft	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament		1+1	the presidency in cooperation with other parliaments of the troika and the European Parliament and the COSAC secretariat	preparation of the conference: the presidency in cooperation with other parliaments of the troika and European Parliament; the composition of the delegation should be decided by each national parliament freely	
Estonia	Riigikogu	Ene Ergma	Chairmen of the relevant committees from the European Parliament and national parliaments and one official accompanying each one of them		no direct reference to the size of delegation	the presidency and the European Parliament in close cooperation with the troika members	preparation of the conference: the presidency in cooperation with other parliaments of the troika and European Parliament	
EU	European Parliament	Jerzy Buzek	4+2	16	no direct reference to the size of delegation			
Finland	Eduskunta	Eero Heinäluoma	no direct reference to the substance of the proposal; considers presidency proposal a useful basis for further discussion					
France	Senate	Jean-Pierre Bel	4+2	16	no direct reference to this issue, support for the presidency's proposal			
	National Assembly	Bernard Accoyer						

Germany	Federal Council – Bundesrat	Horst Seehofer	Bundesrat acknowledges the proposal, but will not comment on it				Bundesrat is going to come to an understanding with the German Bundestag about the composition of the German delegation.
	House of Deputies – Bundestag	Norbert Lammert	the number of members from each parliament could be based on the proportional distribution formula used for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The European Parliament delegation should have the same number of members as the largest delegation from a national parliament.	no direct reference to this issue	no direct reference to this issue	Chairmanship team, made up of the parliaments of the Troika countries, should be responsible for scheduling meetings, setting the agenda and drafting the conclusions. *Position adopted by German Bundestag on 9 June 2011 (printed paper 17/5903)	
Greece	Hellenic Parliament	Philippos Petsalnikos	6	composition of a delegation formulated in a way, that enables participation of representants from all European parliament political groups		size of national parliaments' delegation should follow the model of COSAC (6 MPs from each member state, with equal capacities)	
Hungary	National Assembly	László Kövér	4+2	16	decision should be taken on possible participation of non-candidate countries as observers or in any other way	issue to be settled	to be settled: methods of substitution of the European Parliament members, relations between Conference and COFACC
Italy	Senate	Renato Schifani	no direct reference to the substance of the proposal				
	Camera dei Deputati	Gianfranco Fini	no direct reference to the substance of the proposal; considers proposal valuable in reaching an overall agreement				
Ireland	House of Representatives	Sean Barnett	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament	no direct reference to this issue	the troika of the COSAC secretariat	reference to art. 10 of the Lisbon Treaty	
	The Senate	Patrick Burke	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament	no direct reference to this issue	the troika of the COSAC secretariat	reference to art. 10 of the Lisbon Treaty	
Latvia	Saeima	Solvita Aboltina	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament	no direct reference to this issue	the COSAC secretariat supported by the network of permanent representatives of the national parliaments in Brussels; no new permanent secretariat should be established		
Lithuania	Seimas	Irena Degutienė	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament	no direct reference to this issue	the possibility of involving the COSAC Secretariat in the organisation of the interparliamentary conference should be explored	reference to art. 10 of the Lisbon Treaty; chambers can decide freely on the composition of their delegation for each conference	
Luxembourg	Chamber of Deputies	Laurent Mosar	4+2	16	no direct reference to this issue, support for the presidency's proposal	the role and modalities of participation of the two alternate members need to be clarified and whether chambers in bicameral parliaments have two or four titular members	
Malta	Kamra tad-Deputati	Michael Frendo	parity principle should not be rigidly applied, but delegation numbers should not be augmented to the size initially agreed to by the EP		no direct reference to this issue	utilization of the resources currently available to the COSAC Secretariat for this purpose	Ready to support the proposal about delegation compositions that would achieve the required consensus. All delegation members vested with full participative rights.

Netherlands	Senate	Godefridus Jan de Graaf	4+2	16 (without alternates)	no direct reference to this issue, support for the presidency's proposal	no direct reference to this issue	the principle "4+2" understood as 6 participating members; parliaments/chambers can decide freely on the composition of their delegation for
	House of Representatives	Gerdi A. Verbeet					
Portugal	Assembly of the Republic	Maria da Assunção A. Esteves	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament (as in COSAC)		no direct reference to this issue	COSAC secretariat and the permanent representatives of national parliaments in Brussels	
Romania	Senate	Vasile Blaga	no direct reference to the substance of the proposal				final agreement should be reached at the next Speakers' Conference, presidency's proposal being a good basis
	Chamber of Deputies	Roberta Alma Anastase	4+2	16	no direct reference to this issue, support for the presidency's proposal	no direct reference to this issue	
Slovakia	Narodna Rada	Pavol Hrušovský	no direct reference to the substance of the proposal, but consider it a good basis for further negotiations				no new institutions should be created
Sweden	Riksdag	Per Westerberg	parity: delegation of the European Parliament equal to delegation of a single national parliament. It should be stressed that it is up to each parliament to determine the composition of its delegation. Each parliament should be given ample opportunity to supplement its delegation with observers.		no direct reference to this issue	A special, permanent secretariat should not be established. Instead, responsibility should rest with the Presidency, with the support of the COSAC Secretariat and the national parliaments' representatives in Brussels, or special ad hoc expertise. If a permanent secretariat is established, the costs should be shared by the national parliaments and the European Parliament. Cost efficiency should be aimed for.	The responsibility for chairing the conference, and therefore responsibility for the whole conference, should rest with the EU Presidency in close cooperation with the other countries in the EU trioka including the European Parliament.
United Kingdom	House of Lords	The Rt. Hon Baroness Frances D'Souza	6*	6*	no direct reference to this issue	the COSAC secretariat supported by the network of permanent representatives of the national parliaments in Brussels	*In line with Article 10 of the Lisbon Treaty, the House of Lords does not accept the principle that the EP should have any greater a role than a national parliament in the new interparliamentary conferences, however they will not oppose the Presidency's proposal if the Polish presidency of the Speakers' Conference finds it necessary to secure agreement among all national parliaments and the EP. This is dependent on an acceptable outcome also being reached on the secretariat to the meetings, which is the only other outstanding issue from the Brussels conference. "Alternate" members should have the same rights as "full" members.
	House of Commons	Rt. Hon John Bercow	6*	6*	no direct reference to this issue	the COSAC secretariat supported by the network of permanent representatives of the national parliaments in Brussels	*Statement of Article 10 of the Lisbon Treaty. A clear preference remains towards parity of delegations, however there is also some reluctant readiness to accept the compromise. However, in the time available it has not been possible to take a formal position on the compromise. At the present time, the formal position therefore remains the same as at the 2011 Speakers Conference - that there should be parity of delegations. "Alternate" members should have the same rights as "full" members.