



**Interparliamentary Conference for
the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)
and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**

Senate of the Republic, 5 - 7 November 2014

BEST PRACTICES

- *On the acronym: as agreed at the Conference in Athens, the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy shall adopt the practice of using the acronym IPC CFSP/CSDP.*
- *On participation to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference: the RoP state clearly that each national Parliament may designate up to six delegates and the European Parliament up to sixteen delegates from the competent parliamentary committees to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. Each Parliament shall determine the size and composition of its delegation within this quota.*
- *On the Presidency: the Presidency Parliament, in close cooperation with the European Parliament and with the preceding and following Presidencies, works to prepare the Inter-Parliamentary Conference and, when necessary, to coordinate positions, on current or urgent matters linked to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. The Presidency will cooperate with national delegations as far as possible and any contributions are always welcome. For the sake of efficiency and in order to guarantee cost effectiveness, the Secretariat will be provided by the Presidency Parliament. The publishing of any official document should be a prerogative of the Presidency Parliament and considered on a case by case basis.*
- *On the communication and cooperation between delegations: the networks already existing (the Parliaments' representatives in Brussels, the networks in the capitals,*



IPEX) have proven to be effective and appropriate to facilitate communication and cooperation between delegations.

- *On the quality of debates: the Inter-Parliamentary Conference has already successfully evolved by holding topical debates, working groups and breakout sessions which should be further developed as a useful tool for improving the effectiveness and quality of exchanges between delegates. The contribution from invited specialists to address the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in the framework of workshops was also positively assessed. In the same spirit, suggestions to consider shifting the balance from lengthy plenary presentations by the speakers to more time for questions and answers, in particular between delegates, should be further explored in order to ensure that each Parliament/Chamber present is able to contribute during each debate.*
- *On the principle of consensus: in line with the principle of consensus no exception should be made in the decision making processes.*
- *On draft conclusions of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference: it is widely agreed that the practice of circulating draft Conclusions (in English and French) in good time before the relevant meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference should be continued. However, considering the need to respond to timely events and topical matters it would be artificial to set unrealistic deadlines; the principle of providing draft conclusions as early as possible ahead of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference should be followed and respected. As far as amendments to draft conclusions are concerned, they could be sent in advance or deposited during the Conference, on the basis of a deadline set by the Presidency at the beginning of the Conference*
- *On the presence of the High Representative: the consistent participation of the High Representative in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference and the discussion thereafter has proven both fruitful and useful for the debate on the priorities and strategies of*



the EU in the area of CFSP-CSDP. Dedicating a plenary session to the HR has also been judged a useful tool to raise unforeseen topical issues. The adopted conclusions by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference will be attached to the invitation sent to the High Representative to attend the following meeting, as an incentive for further discussion and commentary. Any additional input by the EEAS to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference is positively perceived by the delegations.

- On the political groups: the Presidency has already provided space for political groups organized along the lines of the European political parties to convene informal meetings prior to meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.*
- On the communication of the related documents: the Presidency Parliament shall ensure that all documents pertaining to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference meeting for which it is responsible are made available on the IPEX website.*