

CONCLUSIONS OF THE XLV COSAC

Budapest, 29-31 May 2011

1. COSAC welcomes the adoption of its amended Rules of Procedure, with the changes bringing the Rules of Procedure in line with the Treaty of Lisbon. COSAC appreciates the constructive efforts made by all delegations to reach this important agreement. The amendment to the Rules of Procedure of COSAC, as it was agreed during the XLV COSAC in Budapest, is attached to these Conclusions. The COSAC Secretariat is asked to prepare its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.
2. COSAC takes note on the report on the last Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments held on 4-5 April 2011 in Brussels and expresses its support for the work done in the framework of the Conference of Speakers seeking a consensual solution to the establishment of the mechanism for parliamentary scrutiny of common foreign and security policy, including common security and defence policy.
3. COSAC agrees to hold, at the Presidency's discretion, an annual general policy debate during its ordinary meeting in the first semester of the year, thus allowing the Contribution of COSAC to be presented in time to feed into the preparations for the State of the Union speech and the Commission Work Programme for the following year. The President or a Vice-President of the Commission should be invited to take part in the debate.
4. COSAC also agrees that the presentation of the Commission's Work Programme for the following year by the President or a Vice-President of the Commission should take place, at the Presidency's discretion, during the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year, after the publication of the Programme. Therefore, when fixing the date of the meeting, COSAC Presidencies are invited to take into account the time of the publication of the Commission's Work Programme. The agenda of the ordinary meeting of COSAC in the second semester of the year may also include an assessment of the Commission's activities in the course of the year.

5. Following the discussion on the Commission's Work Programme, Parliaments would have the opportunity to inform each other about their intention to scrutinize EU draft legislative acts, in particular those which may raise subsidiarity concerns.
6. COSAC recalls that the term in office of the current Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat expires on 31 December 2011. COSAC underlines that the appointment of the new Permanent Member should take place during the XLVI COSAC, therefore, the financial framework for the following two years, i.e. 2012-2013 should be agreed among the participating Parliaments as soon as possible.
7. COSAC also recalls that the present co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat and the costs of running the office and website of COSAC will end on 31 December 2011. COSAC welcomes the 35 letters of intent of national Parliaments and parliamentary Chambers expressing their commitment for the co-financing for the following two years, i.e. 2012-2013. Furthermore, COSAC welcomes the fact that the threshold of a minimum of the national Parliaments of 14 Member States has been reached. COSAC calls upon the remaining Parliaments and parliamentary Chambers to renew their commitment for the co-financing.
8. COSAC welcomes the 15th Bi-annual Report prepared by the COSAC Secretariat and warmly thanks the Secretariat for its excellent work. The Report provides comprehensive information on the parliamentary developments with regard to the Europe 2020 Strategy, economic governance, the European Semester and the Commission Work Programme 2012.