

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC
Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, 29 November 2015**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

CHAIR: Mr Marc ANGEL, Chair of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration, Luxembourg *Chambre des Députés*.

Mr Tuur ELZINGA, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, Dutch *Eerste Kamer*, Mr Malik AZMANI, Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Dutch *Tweede Kamer*, Ms Nellija KLEINBERGA, Member of the European Affairs Committee, Latvian *Saeima*; Mr Ramón Luis VALCÁRCEL SISO, Vice-President, European Parliament, and Ms Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament.

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda of the Presidential Troika meeting of COSAC**
- 2. Approval of the draft programme of the LIV COSAC**
- 3. Presentation of the 24th Bi-annual Report of COSAC**
- 4. Debate on the draft contribution and on the draft conclusions of the LIV COSAC**
- 5. Co-financing and nomination of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for 2016 and 2017**
- 6. Letters received by the Presidency**
- 7. Any other business**

PROCEEDINGS

1. Adoption of the agenda of the Presidential Troika meeting of COSAC

The meeting was chaired by Mr Marc ANGEL, Chair of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration, Luxembourg *Chambre des Députés*, who welcomed the delegations of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (hereinafter referred to as "the Troika").

In the absence of any objection, the agenda of the meeting of the Troika was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of the draft programme of the LIV COSAC

Mr ANGEL gave a brief outline of the plenary agenda referring also to an informal lunch session on the current negotiations on EU reform ahead of the referendum on UK membership hosted at the request of the UK delegation.

In the absence of any objection, the draft programme of the meeting of the LIV COSAC was approved without amendment.

3. Presentation of the 24th Bi-annual Report of COSAC

Mr ANGEL invited the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Ms Christiana FRYDA, to give a short presentation of the 24th Bi-annual Report of COSAC which was based on Parliaments' replies to the related questionnaire circulated to delegations on 29 July 2015 with a deadline of 14 September 2015 for submitting replies.

Ms FRYDA briefly presented the report, providing details on its three chapters dealing with the future of parliamentary scrutiny of EU affairs, a European Agenda on Migration and enlargement policy.

The Chair reminded the participants that the Luxembourg Presidency had organised a meeting of the working group of COSAC on strengthening the political dialogue by introducing a "green card" and improving the reasoned opinion procedure ("yellow card") on 30 October 2015. In this context, he explained that the Presidency suggested including in the draft conclusions and contribution some elements based on the working group's discussions and on Parliaments' replies to the questionnaire, as well as that the future Dutch Presidency present a follow-up on these.

The Chair referred to the "Enlargement package" recently adopted by the European Commission, which, unlike previous reports, would cover four years. He expressed the wish that national Parliaments' Foreign Affairs Committees would hold a debate on this new format of the "Enlargement package".

4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the LIV COSAC

The Chair reminded the participants that the draft conclusions and contribution had been circulated to delegations on 16 November 2015 with the deadline of 23 November 2015 for submitting amendments. The amendments received had been included in a table by the Presidency secretariat which would be adapted accordingly, and further amendments would be accepted until noon the following day.

Mr Malik AZMANI, Dutch *Tweede Kamer*, on behalf of the Dutch delegation, thanked the Presidency for its excellent work and expressed the Dutch Presidency's position that COSAC should focus on processes of parliamentary exchange. He added that, as incoming Presidency, the Dutch Presidency would not hamper discussions on substantial issues, but that the core of it would be the "yellow" and "green" card system.

The Chair submitted a table of amendments to the draft conclusions and contribution, which incorporated compromise proposals elaborated by the Presidency. Following a detailed examination of each amendment proposed on each paragraph and of each compromise amendment proposed by the Presidency, the Troika drafted a modified text of the conclusions and contribution to be presented to the Chairpersons of COSAC the following day.

5. Co-financing and nomination of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for 2016 and 2017

Mr ANGEL referred to Rule 9.5 of the Rules of Procedure of COSAC stipulating the terms of the co-financing agreement regarding the cost of seconding the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat and of necessary technical costs for the Secretariat's office and the COSAC website. He then informed that the current agreement on co-financing was expiring at the end of 2015 and that a

letter was sent by the Presidency on 20 July 2015 to the Secretaries General of COSAC Parliaments inviting Parliaments to sign a letter of intent for the next co-financing period of 2016-2017.

He announced that letters of intent had been received from 30 Chambers which exceeded the required minimum number of national Parliaments for the commitment to be valid. The next day he would ask for the remaining letters to be sent as soon as possible.

The Chair then proceeded with the nomination of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for 2016-2017 recalling Rule 9.3 of the Rules of Procedure. He explained that the term of the current Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Ms Christiana FRYDA, was expiring at the end of 2015 and reminded that the Luxembourg *Chambre des Députés* received a letter on 9 July 2015 by the House of Representatives of Cyprus recommending the renewal of the term of office of Ms FRYDA. The Troika agreed and the nomination of Ms FRYDA was going to take place at the meeting of the Chairpersons the following day.

6. Letters received by the Presidency

Mr ANGEL informed the members of the Troika about the following letters that the Presidency had received:

- A letter from Ms Iryna GERASHCHENKO, Chair of the Committee on European Integration Ukrainian *Verkhova Rada*, expressing interest in participating in the LIV COSAC meeting. In line with the Rules of Procedure of COSAC, after consultation with the Troika, an invitation letter was addressed to the Ukrainian Parliament.
- A letter from Lord BOSWELL of Aynho, Chair of the European Union Committee of the UK *House of Lords*, and Sir William CASH, Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee of the UK *House of Commons*, requesting assistance in facilitating an informal discussion in the margins of the LIV COSAC on the current negotiations on EU reform ahead of the referendum on UK membership.
- A letter from Mr Edmund WITTBRODT, former Chair of the EU Affairs Committee of the Polish *Senat*, on his decision not to run for re-election.
- A letter from Ms Tineke STRIK, former Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Dutch *Eerste Kamer*, about the end of her term.
- A letter from Ms Lolita ČIGĀNE about her inability to attend the LIV COSAC meeting and about the results of the informal interparliamentary meeting on the Audio-visual Media Service Directive, which had taken place in Riga on the 16 November 2015.

7. Any other business

No other business.