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The Vice-President  
The Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Mr Tuur Elzinga  
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs  
Dutch Senate

Mr Malik Azmani  
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs  
Dutch House of Representatives

Dear Chairs, dear colleagues,

We would like to thank you, and your Presidency, for having hosted the COSAC Plenary meeting in The Hague on 12-14 June 2016 and for having decided to address such important issues as the Rule of Law, Parliamentary Diplomacy and Migration during the debates.

We would also like to share some considerations with respect to the way the COSAC Contribution was debated and adopted, both at the Troika meeting and later during the meeting of the Chairpersons.

During our Troika meeting on Sunday afternoon, it was very clear that the troika did not reach an agreement on paragraph 6.4 of the Draft Contribution, concerning the “mechanism” for the enforcement of the Rule of Law. In our view, we could have negotiated a compromise text suggested by our colleague Marc Angel from Luxembourg, but the compromise amendment was not drafted at the meeting. The Presidency decided to present its original text as accepted, with the mention “except the EP delegation”. To our understanding, the Troika agrees by consensus and not by majority voting.

When it came to the debate and the adoption of the Contribution by the Chairpersons on Monday afternoon, we proposed an oral amendment to the text but that was not taken into consideration, and our original amendment was put to the vote and rejected. We would have wished our oral amendment to receive similar treatment as that of the amendment from the Italian delegation on paragraph 8.

Maybe we should consider in the future whether the rules of procedures, or at least the voting rules and practices concerning the adoption of the contribution, need to be more

transparent and clear. We would be happy to propose eventual suggestions, if you agree that it would be useful.

Yours sincerely,



Ramón Luis VALCÁRCEL SISO  
Vice-President



Danuta Maria HÜBNER  
Chair of the Committee on  
Constitutional Affairs

cc: - Mr Marc Angel, Chair of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs,  
Defence, Cooperation and Immigration of the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy  
of Luxembourg  
- Mr Luboš Blaha, Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee of the National Council of  
the Slovak Republic