

To
Mr Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso
Vice-president of the European Parliament

Ms Danuta Maria Hübner
Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the
European Parliament

Place and date: The Hague, June 29, 2016
Concerning: Response to your letter of 23 June 2016
Our reference: 2016Z13387/2016D27515

Dear Mr Valcárcel, Dear Ms Hübner,

We would like to thank you for your letter and your considerations with respect to the way the COSAC Contribution was debated and adopted.

To organise the COSAC Plenary meeting in The Hague was a great honour. We look back on a very pleasant and fruitful discussion on the Contribution during both the Troika meeting and the meeting of the Chairpersons.

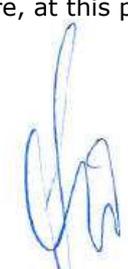
With regard to your considerations on the Troika meeting and the meeting of the Chairpersons, we would like to mention that during all of our meetings we followed the principle that in general COSAC shall seek to adopt contributions by broad consensus. This principle, as mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of COSAC, reflects the task to meet as much as possible the expectations and wishes of all delegations attending the meetings. We therefore greatly appreciate the constructive approach taken by the EP during the discussion in the Troika on the amendment referred to in your letter.

As we fully support a transparent and clear procedure, we have given an explanation about the manner in which the contributions would be treated, both during the Troika and the Chairpersons meetings.

We are also of the opinion that a level of flexibility and room to manoeuvre will always be needed to be able to reach broad consensus. The current Rules of Procedure allow COSAC to learn from previous meetings and to develop and apply over time best practices. Therefore, at this point we see no need to propose a change of the Rules of Procedure.

Yours sincerely,


Mr Tuur Elzinga
Chairman of the committee on
European Affairs of the Senate


Mr Malik Azmani
Chairman of the committee on
European Affairs of the House of Representatives