



Mr. Richard HÖRCSIK,
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Letter concerning amendments to the rules of procedure of COSAC

28 April 2011

Dear Mr. HÖRCSIK

Ref. 10-000857-4

Please find enclosed six amendments to the rules of procedure of COSAC, which is tabled in accordance with paragraph 14(1) of the COSAC rules. I hereby ask the Hungarian Presidency to put the amendments on the agenda for discussion at the forthcoming COSAC in Budapest on 30-31 May 2011.

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The amendments aim at adjusting the rules of procedure to the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty with regard to the role of national parliaments in the European Union architecture.

This includes the new possibility for COSAC to organise interparliamentary conferences on specific topics such as the EU's common foreign and security policy and security and defence policy as it is laid down in protocol 1 of the Lisbon Treaty.

However to ensure the participation of key stakeholders in the CFSP such as the chairmen of the Foreign affairs Committees and Defence Committees of national parliaments and European Parliament it is at the same time suggested to open up COSAC for members of all parliamentary committees competent in European Union Affairs.

Finally the amendments seek to adjust the current Troika based Presidency of COSAC to the new Trio Presidency of the Council while at the same time acknowledging the European Parliament as part of a new Quartet Presidency of COSAC.

The amendments are also forwarded to all other COSAC delegations in accordance with the requirements in paragraph 14(1) of the COSAC rules. I hope you will be able to support our amendments.

Yours sincerely


Anne-Marie Meldgaard
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Amendments to the Rules of procedure of COSAC:

Tabled by the Danish Parliament in accordance with paragraph 14.1 of CRP

Amendment 1:

2. TASKS AND COMPETENCES FOR COSAC

2.5: The Presidential *Quartet* (To replace paragraph 2.5(1))

The Presidential Quartet of COSAC consists of the parliaments of pre-established groups of three Member States and the European Parliament for a period of 18 months. The groups shall be made up on a basis of equal rotation among the Member State Parliaments following the arrangements made for the rotating Presidency of the Council. Each national parliament member of the group shall in turn chair for a six-month period.

Each delegation consists of two members of its Parliament.

Amendment 2:

"Quartet" replaces "troika" in the following paragraphs of the rules of procedure: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 4, 4.3, 7.1, 10.2, 11.6, 11 bis and 12.

Amendment 3:

4. COMPOSITION:

4.1: Each national parliament shall be represented by a maximum of six members of its ***parliamentary Committee(s) competent in European Union Affairs***. The European Parliament shall be represented by six members. Each parliament shall determine the composition of its own delegation.

Amendment 4:

5. CONVOCATION

New 5.1:

COSAC may, pursuant to the procedure laid down in paragraph 2.2, organise interparliamentary conferences on specific topics, in particular to

debate matters of common foreign and security policy, including common security and defence policy.

Amendment 5:

7. AGENDA

7.1: *Prior to the last ordinary meeting before the beginning of a new Quartet Presidency* delegations shall indicate the subjects they propose be dealt with for the following ***period of 18 months.***

Amendment 6:

10: COSAC CONTRIBUTIONS

10.1: COSAC may address contributions to the institutions of the European Union pursuant to the ***Lisbon Treaty Protocol*** on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union. ***Contributions from the conference shall not bind national Parliaments and shall not prejudice their positions.***

