



ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA  
COMISSÃO DE ASSUNTOS EUROPEUS

*Mr. Herman DE CROO*

Co-President of the Federal Advisory Committee on  
European Affairs  
Palais de la Nation  
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*Dear Mr. Chairman*

Let me begin by expressing my best wishes for the commencement of the Belgian presidency in this second semester of 2010. I am looking forward to the interesting discussions that will most certainly take place at the upcoming COSAC meetings in Brussels.

I would to start by highlighting the fact that COSAC has been strengthening its role as a forum for interesting political debates, which is deemed very useful for the work of national Parliaments (NPs) and the European Parliament (EP).

Nevertheless, I would like to address a couple of issues that I find important, in order to improve even further the functioning of COSAC plenary meetings.

First of all, and as far as the debate on the Contribution and Conclusions of COSAC, I find that precise rules should be established, so that we can avoid wasting time and focusing the discussions on issues or details of no political relevance.

For that purpose, a possible suggestion regarding the procedures could be as follows:

1. The draft contribution and conclusions should be distributed beforehand, within a reasonable delay;
2. The deadline for amendments should be clearly defined, ending before the troika meeting held before the COSAC meeting itself;
3. New topics proposed by delegations can only be accepted when the Presidency accepts to submit them;
4. Amendments proposed during the meeting must be supported by, at least,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the delegations;
5. These amendments are proposed and immediately subject to a vote, with no debate.



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On the other hand, aiming to have more focused and concrete debates, COSAC should reflect on the possibility of setting up non-permanent Committees that members can attend, if they wish, on the margins of the plenary session, dedicated to discuss specific issues that might bring added value to the works of the Conference.

As President in office of COSAC, I would like to draw your attention to these issues, hoping that we can improve even further the works of COSAC, leaving behind procedural and bureaucratic issues, and focusing our attention on specific topics that bring added value to our EU affairs monitoring and scrutiny.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate that the European Affairs Committee, which I am honoured to chair, is fully committed to the challenges we face and prepared for the mutual cooperation required to build a more democratic and prosper Europe.

Yours sincerely,

*(Vitalino Canas)*

Chairman on the European Affairs Committee