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The adoption of the Contribution of XLIV COSAC Brussels on 25-26 October 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Following the XLIV COSAC in Brussels, we would like to share with you our concerns with regard the procedure leading to the adoption of the Contribution of COSAC XLIV.

Without going into details of the debate held in the Chairpersons meeting on 25 October, we feel obliged to recall that it was explicitly acknowledged that a great majority of the national parliaments present were in agreement on including in the Contribution references to the framework agreement concluded between the European Parliament and the Commission, and its wording. To our surprise a new proposal prepared by the Presidency at the request of the European Parliament was tabled for adoption the very next day. We also have the impression that the organisation of the debate was unduly biased in favour of the European Parliament.

We fully understand that this issue is sensitive for the European Parliament, as the time limit for challenging the legality of the agreement before the European Court of Justice has not yet expired. Nevertheless, we are concerned that the integrity of COSAC is put into question if the outcome of the COSAC meetings *de facto* depends on whether the Contribution can gain the approval of the European Parliament. Inter-parliamentary meetings, in our experience, are most useful when they allow a free exchange of views in accordance with point 10.1 of the COSAC Rules of Procedure and its annex which state that COSAC may address contributions to all EU institutions, including the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely

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Carl B. Hamilton
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