

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC**  
**Paris, 2 November 2008**

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING:**

IN THE CHAIR: Mr Hubert HAENEL (*Sénat*, France), Mr Pierre LEQUILLER (*Assemblée nationale*, France)

Mr Jan BAUER (*Poslanecká snemovna*, Czech Republic), Mr Ludek SEFZIG (*Senát*, Czech Republic); Ms Darja LAVTIŽAR BEBLER (*Državni zbor*, Slovenia), Mr Vincenc OTONIČAR (*Državni svet*, Slovenia); Mr Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT (European Parliament); Ms Martine ROURE (European Parliament)

**AGENDA:**

1. Adoption of the agenda of the Presidential Troika meeting
2. Adoption of the draft agenda of the XL COSAC meeting
3. 10th Bi-annual Report
4. Report on the results of the subsidiarity check and next subsidiarity checks
5. AOB

**PROCEEDINGS:**

**1. Adoption of the agenda of the Presidential Troika meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Hubert HAENEL and Mr Pierre LEQUILLER who welcomed the delegations.

The agenda of the meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC was presented by Mr HAENEL and unanimously adopted as above.

**2. Adoption of the draft agenda of the XL COSAC meeting**

Mr HAENEL outlined the draft agenda of the meeting of the XL COSAC as approved by the meeting of the COSAC Chairpersons in Paris on 7 July 2008.

Mr HAENEL then announced that the Presidency received two requests to add items to the agenda of the XL COSAC.

The purpose of the first letter sent by the Chairmen of the Committees on European Affairs of the Parliaments of the three Baltic States and Poland was to ask for a debate at the XL COSAC meeting on the relationship between the European Union and Russia, especially in the light of the recent conflict between Russia and Georgia. Considering that it was directly linked to two points of the agenda – the French Presidency of the European Union (point 2) and Energy Security and European Union (point 4) – the Chairman proposed that Members of Parliament that wished to speak on this issue could do so during the debates of the agenda points 2 and 4.

The second letter was a request from the Chairman of the Grand Committee of the Finnish *Edukunsta* to include in the agenda of the XL COSAC the proposal for a regulation regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (COM (2008) 229). The Chairman deemed this issue to be linked to the point of the agenda "Bringing Europe closer to its citizens" and therefore suggested raising it during that specific debate. In addition, the *Edukunsta*'s concerns about the proposal had been taken into account in the draft Contribution of the XL COSAC.

The draft agenda was unanimously adopted as proposed by the Presidency.

### **3. 10th Bi-annual Report**

The Chairman introduced the 10th Bi-annual Report of COSAC and emphasised chapter 2 which constitutes the report of the results of the Working Group of national parliaments' representatives to the EU, set up by the XXXIX COSAC, on a better cooperation in the application of the Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

As decided at XXXIX COSAC meeting in Brdo pri Kranju, the report is aimed at forming the basis of a discussion at the XL COSAC Meeting.

The 10th Bi-annual Report was adopted by the Troika.

### **4. Report on the results of the subsidiarity check and next subsidiarity checks**

The Chairman presented the report on the results of the subsidiarity check on the proposal for a directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and reminded that it would be discussed by the XL COSAC Members on 4 November.

The Chairman also recalled the decision taken at the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting in July 2008 to carry out a subsidiarity check on the proposal for a directive on standards of quality and safety for the donations, procurement, testing, preservation, transport and characterisation of human organs, as soon as it is published by the European Commission in December 2008.

According to the decision of the COSAC Chairpersons last July, a second subsidiarity check should also be conducted on the proposal for a regulation on the applicable law, jurisdiction, recognition of decisions and administrative measures in the area of successions and wills when it is published in first half of 2009.

The evaluation of the results of these subsidiarity checks should take place under the incoming Czech Presidency, which should also be in charge of preparing the choice of the next subsidiarity check by national parliaments in accordance with the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme for 2009.

### **5. AOB**

The Chairman presented two additional letters received by the Presidency.

The first letter was sent by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the WEU, Jean-Pierre MASSERET, who appreciated that COSAC in its 10th Bi-annual Report tackled the question of the parliamentary scrutiny of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and underlined the important work carried out by the Assembly of the WEU in that field.

Note was taken of this letter and the invitation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the WEU to build cooperation with COSAC on defence matters.

The second letter was sent by the Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the Norwegian Parliament in order to participate in the debates of the XL COSAC meeting in Paris.

Following the practice that the parliaments other than the ones of the EU Member States, the European Parliament and the candidate countries are invited only if there is a relevant point on the agenda that directly concerns them, the Troika agreed that extending an invitation to the European Affairs Committee of the Norwegian Parliament was not suitable considering the agenda of the XL COSAC.

Finally, the Chairman announced that the Presidency received a letter of intent of the Latvian *Saiema* expressing its willingness to join the co-financing of the position of the permanent member of the COSAC Secretariat and other costs of the COSAC Office in Brussels as of 1 January 2009. Therefore, now all national parliaments participate in the co-financing of the post of the permanent member of the COSAC Secretariat and other costs of the COSAC Office in Brussels.