

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC
9th FEBRUARY 2005**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

M. Ben Fayot (Luxembourg Presidency); Mrs. Ankie Broekers-Knol (NL, Eerste Kamer); Mrs. Godelieve van Heteren (NL, Tweede Kamer); Mr. Jimmy Hood (UK, House of Commons); Lord Grenfell (UK, House of Lords); Mr. MacMillan-Scott (European Parliament)

AGENDA:

- 1) Agenda of the XXXIII COSAC in Luxembourg
- 2) Miscellaneous

ad 1) Agenda of the XXXIII COSAC in Luxembourg

The Chairman started the Troika meeting by informing the delegations in detail about the proposed agenda for the plenary meeting in May in Luxembourg.

The Netherlands delegation then presented a proposal concerning a follow up of the contribution of the XXXI COSAC which called for a closer coordination between the Parliaments concerning the scrutiny and implementation of the general budget of the European Union. The idea of discussing the control of the EU-budget was agreed by the Troika meeting. A proposal of the European Parliament to put discussion of the International Criminal Court on the agenda was not adopted.

In order to follow the latest developments in the Interparliamentary Exchange Program (IPEX), it was decided to insert this topic under item 1 on the agenda which deals with the pilot project and the subsidiarity check.

ad 2) Miscellaneous

Concerning the pilot project on the subsidiarity test, the Troika agreed to recommend that the experiment should be launched on the 1st March and that the COSAC Secretariat should draw up a short aide-mémoire for the national Parliaments asking them to provide an overview over the procedure they use. The Secretariat should try to produce a compilation of the results of the test, summarizing the examination in each national parliament, which should be distributed before the plenary meeting in May, allowing an exchange of information and best practice.

On the Ukrainian request for a change of the Rules of procedure in order to allow the Members of the so-called European Conference to participate in the COSAC meetings as observers, the Troika recommended not to accept this change. As there was agreement not to change of the rules of procedure, the Troika adopted the same position towards a letter sent by the Chairman of the EFTA parliamentary committee, who asked for participation of the EFTA countries in the COSAC.

Ben Fayot drew the attention of the Troika to the fact that one of the items to be discussed at the Conference of Speakers would be a report on the rationalization of the European interparliamentary organizations, which aimed at stopping the creation of new

interparliamentary organizations and enhancing the cooperation between them. He suggested that this report should also be taken into account by one of the next COSAC meetings.