



ВЕРХОВНА РАДА УКРАЇНИ

Комітет з питань Європейської інтеграції

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Dear Mr. Fayot,

With expressing the best regards, may I kindly request your support of our initiative in order to make the below-mentioned amendments to the Rules of Procedure of COSAC.

You might be aware of the fact that the Delegation of Ukraine is presently attending the COSAC meetings on a basis of the special guest status. In accordance to the Rules of Procedure this status doesn't grant the Ukrainian representatives a right to speak in the debates. Therefore the members of COSAC are deprived to know the Ukrainian position regarding certain COSAC agenda items.

Consequently, Ukraine requires an official Presidency invitation to partake in COSAC meetings. In each case this invitation is only given on the relevant decision of consultations with Presidential Troika, which severely delays the preparations of the Ukrainian side, postponed in its actions up to an end of the consultations. For example, Ukrainian delegation was invited to attend the 31st COSAC meeting only five days in advance.

However, our main concern is that there have been no changes reflecting the recent transformation of the EU-Ukraine relations applied to the present status of Ukrainian delegation. First of all, "Wider Europe/New Neighborhood Policy" concept was developed and Ukraine has become a full-fledged member of the European Conference according to the decision of Goteborg EU Summit of 2001.

Article 13 "European Conference" of chapter I "Future of the Europe" in the Swedish Presidency Conclusions says that ***"with a view to strengthening the Union's partnership with Ukraine...[it] will subsequently be invited to join the Conference"***. For the first time Ukraine partook in the European Conference in Athens in April 2003 as a "full member" according to the Press Release of 6th Meeting of the Co-operation Council between the EU and Ukraine of 18 March 2003.

Mr. Ben FAYOT

**President, the Committee on European Affairs,
Defense, Cooperation on Immigration,
The Parliament of Luxembourg**

We consider the changes in the EU-Ukraine relations are sufficient in order to obtain the status of an observer at COSAC meetings on a permanent basis.

Therefore Ukrainian delegation proposes to amend Article 4.2 of the Rules of Procedure of COSAC, as follows:

“4.2 Observers from the Parliaments of applicant countries and countries – members of the European Conference.

Three observers from the parliaments of each applicant country shall be invited to ordinary and extraordinary meetings.

Three observers from the parliaments of the countries – full members of the European Conference shall, with the consent of the Chairpersons at their meeting and subject to the approval at the meeting of COSAC, be invited to the following ordinary and extraordinary meetings.”

The origin of those changes comes from the issue of a country being a full member of the European Conference and which is interested in obtaining the status of an observer at the meetings of COSAC, shall be preliminary agreed at the meeting of Chairpersons, and finally approved at the meeting of COSAC. After the appropriate decision is adopted, a country shall be invited to the following meetings of COSAC as an observer.

Our proposal is based upon determination of the European Conference, according to the Luxemburg Presidency Conclusions presented at the EU Summit of 1997, as ***“a multilateral forum for political consultation, intended to address questions of general concern to the participants and to broaden and deepen their cooperation... [which]...will bring together the Member States of the European Union and the European States aspiring to accede to it and sharing its values and internal and external objectives”***.

Therefore, participation of Ukraine in the European Conference may be regarded as a recognition of the great importance of Ukraine for the EU as well as an admitting of the fact that Ukraine also belongs to the group of European countries which are ***“aspiring to accede to [European Union] and sharing its values and internal and external objectives”***.

So, the abovementioned amendments to the Rules of Procedure, are in complete compliance with both the COSAC ideology and development of the EU-Ukraine relations, being deepened and broadened within the framework of “Wider Europe/New Neighborhood” concept.

Adoption of these amendments will allow Ukraine to obtain an observer’s status in COSAC, which from its side will prove its support of the Ukrainian aspirations for closer cooperation with the EU. It will also lead to the strengthening of parliamentary dimension of the EU-Ukraine relations.

As you may know, due to the present status of a special guest Ukraine is not allowed to make proposals for revision of the Rules of Procedure (according to chapter 14 “Revision of the Rules of Procedure”). Proposals must be sent from one or several

delegations of one or several parliaments to all national parliaments of the Member States and to the European Parliament. We would be very grateful if you inform us of your position in this regard.

Please find attached our proposals for revision of the Rules of Procedure.

We hope on your understanding of the Status of Ukraine in COSAC ought to be raised to a higher level. This undoubtedly is an important and useful signal for both Ukraine in general and Ukrainian Parliament, in particular.

Sincerely yours I remain

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Borys Tarasyuk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ambassador Borys TARASYUK

**Chairman, Committee for European Integration,
Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine,
Co-Chairman, Ukraine-EU Parliamentary Cooperation Committee**