

Again the role of national parliaments in the EU was a key point on the COSAC agenda. The conference also debated reform of COSAC. The Westendorp Reflection group had issued its final report on 5 December 1995. The group had rejected the idea of a second chamber and concluded that "COSAC was a favourable formula for the improvement of relations between national parliaments and the European Parliament", although it had also recommended that COSAC should not become a new institution.

Against this background, the conference discussed a proposal to strengthen the possibilities for national parliaments to act collectively by empowering COSAC to express itself on the principle of subsidiarity and on issues within the two inter-governmental areas of the Treaty (CFSP and JHA). A majority of delegations rejected the idea, although most delegations nonetheless accepted the need to improve the functioning of COSAC. The Finnish delegation suggested establishing a working group to work out recommendations on how to proceed with the issue. The COSAC Presidential Troika was mandated to prepare a report on a "reinforcement of declaration 13 and an improved functioning of COSAC, to be presented at the next meeting of COSAC in Dublin".