

Apart from the democratic deficit, the 7th COSAC also discussed how the declarations on national parliaments attached to the Maastricht Treaty could be implemented. There was no agreement on the proposal to create a Conference of the Parliaments (Assizes) as proposed by Declaration 14. Another proposal that was rejected was to open COSAC meetings to the press. COSAC concluded that the experience of correspondence (exchange of information) between national parliaments (COEU-P) initiated by the Belgian Chamber of Representatives had not been successful. It was stopped after only 9 of the 21 Assemblies had responded positively to the initiative.

Like at the previous COSAC, it proved impossible for delegations to agree on a communiqué. Instead, the UK Presidency drew up a final report, in the name of the COSAC Chairmen, which drew attention to a number of points that had been raised during discussions to combat the democratic deficit. The report followed the declaration adopted by the European Council in Birmingham on 16 October confirming the need for more democracy, subsidiarity and openness, in particular in the proceedings of the Council.