

**Remarks of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus
on the Belgian proposal for Parliamentary Scrutiny
of the CFSP and CSDP**

The opinion of the House of Representatives on the parliamentary scrutiny of the CFSP and CSDP has been formulated bearing in mind the special nature of the CFSP and the CSDP, as domains of Member States' competence. According to the Lisbon Treaty, parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP resides in national parliaments, which are to contribute, according to Article 12 TEU, to the good functioning of the Union.

According to Protocol 1 on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union/ Article 10, interparliamentary conferences can be organised in order to "debate matters of common foreign and security policy, including common security and defence policy". The Extra EU Speakers' Conference, in Stockholm, 11-12 December 2009, identified the need for increased political dialogue of the relevant policy area, suggesting that separate or joint meetings of COFACC/ CODAC should be used for monitoring development on the basis of an annual report of the High Representative.

Based on the above, as well as on the Speakers' Synthesis of Discussion (Stockholm, 11-12 December 2009) that "No new institutions or structures need to be established for the enhanced interparliamentary cooperation....", that "existing fora should be used and developed if needed" and that "the number of meetings should be reduced or in any case not increased", the Cyprus House of Representatives is of the opinion that:

1. Point 1 of the Belgian proposal: The House of Representatives supports the view, which has been expressed at the Extra Speakers' Conference in Stockholm, that the setting up of new institutions for interparliamentary cooperation should be avoided, as well as the duplication of meetings on the same subjects.

The Cyprus Parliament is of the opinion that the existing structures of interparliamentary cooperation, namely COFFAC and CODAC should serve as the basis for parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP. It is proposed that the meetings of COFFAC and CODAC should be held jointly under the “new” Conference, which will include in its workings a regular scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP and also continue having the current informal character pertaining to the exchange of views on other matters on the agenda, which are of interest to both COFFAC and CODAC. This will avoid duplication of work and will deplete the workload of MP’s.

The Chairmen of the COFFAC and CODAC Committees could have preparatory meetings prior to each meeting of the Conference.

2. Point 3 of the Belgian proposal:

The House of Representatives is of the opinion that the number of members of the EP delegation should be equal to the number of members of a national delegation (i.e. 4).

3. Point 5 of the Belgian proposal:

The Conference does not require having a seat. Meetings will be organised twice a year in the country holding the rotating Council Presidency.

4. Point 6 of the Belgian proposal:

The meetings shall be presided by the National Parliament of the country holding the rotating Council Presidency.

5. Point 9 of the Belgian proposal:

The Secretariat of the Conference shall be provided by national parliaments and the European Parliament.

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