



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS
SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

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Mr Andre Flahaut
Speaker of the Belgian House of
Representatives

Mr Danny Pieters
Speaker of the Belgian Senate

10 March 2011
N° 5-2011-2037

Ref.: Presidency Proposal on Parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank you for the proposal to debate on parliamentary scrutiny at the upcoming EU Speakers Conference.

I am convinced that the decision of the national parliaments and the European Parliament reached during the previous COSAC plenary meeting should be a solid basis for the Speakers' discussions. However, in my opinion, the Belgium Presidency proposal is not in line with and far beyond the COSAC contributions.

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas once again debated the issue on the cooperation of national parliaments on CFSP and CSDP. The recently reached decision echoes the earlier position of the Seimas presented to You last year.

Please find attached the Decision of the European Affairs Committee on the above mentioned issue.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius
Deputy Chairman of the Seimas
Chairman of the Committee



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

DECISION

**ON FURTHER COOPERATION OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS ON THE EUROPEAN
SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY**

9 March 2011 No. 100-S-5

Vilnius

In accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the Lisbon Treaty Protocol on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union, whereby “a conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs [COSAC] (...) may organise interparliamentary conferences on specific topics, in particular to debate matters of common foreign and security policy, including common security and defence policy,”

Taking into consideration the joint decision of the Committee on European Affairs, Committee on National Security and Defence, and Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on Parliamentary Scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy adopted on 15 September 2010,

Noting the provisions of the contribution of XLIV COSAC held on 24-26 October 2010 on the parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP),

In response to the proposal of the Belgian Parliament for the EU Speakers Conference to be held on 4-5 April 2011,

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

hereby decides:

1. To ask the EU Speakers Conference to charge COSAC, following the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty Protocol on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union, to commence the organisation of interparliamentary conferences in 2011 to debate matters of the CFSP, including the CSDP:

1.1. Debates on the CFSP, including the CSDP, should be held by uniting the two currently separate parliamentary forums – Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and Conference of the Defence Affairs Committees (CODAC) – into a joint interparliamentary conference.

1.2. Parliamentary delegations should consist of no more than 6 members from each member state and the European Parliament. EU candidate countries could participate as observers.

1.3. The interparliamentary conference should discuss the main matters and initiatives related to the CSDP of the EU. The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Foreign and/or Defence Minister of the Presidency, as well as other representatives of the EU institutions and international organisations could be invited to attend the debates.

1.4. The Chairman of the meeting could draft the outcomes of the debates of the interparliamentary conference to be presented at COSAC ordinary meetings and included into COSAC final documents.

1.5. National parliaments of the EU Presidential Troika would be responsible for holding every interparliamentary meeting in their respective member states and setting its agenda. The debates would be chaired by a member of the delegation from the parliament of the EU member state holding the interparliamentary meeting, who would draft the outcomes of the meeting and present them to COSAC.

1.6. The meetings of the interparliamentary conference would be organised at least once every six months in cooperation with the COSAC Secretariat, representatives of the national parliaments of the EU Presidential Troika residing in capitals, and permanent representatives of the national parliaments in the EU.

2. To propose to the Speaker of the Seimas to endorse the position stated above at the EU Speakers Conference to be held in Brussels on 4-5 April 2011.

Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius
Chairman of the Committee

