

Courtesy Translation

Her Excellency
Ms Ewa Kopacz
Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

His Excellency
Mr Bogdan Borusewicz
Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland
WARSAW
REPUBLIC OF POLAND

15 December 2011

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr Speaker,

In view of the difficulty in reaching agreement and in light of the national parliaments' interest in monitoring the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defence Policy, in the framework of an interparliamentary conference involving the European Parliament, I welcome the compromise proposal you have put forward, which I consider useful.

Given the German Bundestag's decision of 9 June 2011 on this subject, the parliamentary groups will need to examine your proposal in greater depth. Unfortunately, this means I will be unable to send you the opinion you requested until the end of January 2012, due to the parliamentary recess over the holidays.

I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. Professor Norbert Lammert
President of the German Bundestag

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Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr Speaker,

The parliamentary groups at the German Bundestag have now stated their opinions on the compromise proposal you presented concerning the shape to be taken by an interparliamentary conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Just as the views of the parliaments of the member states of the European Union on your compromise proposal vary, so too do the opinions of the different parliamentary groups at the German Bundestag.

On 9 June 2011, the German Bundestag welcomed the establishment of an interparliamentary conference on the CFSP/CSDP and adopted by a majority a motion to this effect, in the form of printed paper 17/5903, which I attach for your information. The motion adopted proposes that the number of members from each parliament could be based on the proportional distribution formula used for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In this way, the conference would reflect the diversity of national parliaments. The motion proposes that the European Parliament delegation should have the same number of members as the largest delegation from a national parliament. The parliaments of EU applicant countries and NATO member countries could have observer status. The motion proposes that the chairmanship team, made up of the parliaments of the Troika countries, should be responsible for scheduling meetings, setting the agenda and drafting the conclusions.

The majority of Members of the German Bundestag hope that the ideas contained in the resolution on the structure of the conference can be implemented: they therefore rightly expect me to advocate the implementation of these measures at the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments which you are hosting in Warsaw. At the same time, however – as was the case in April 2011 in Brussels – I will be open to compromises, and will indeed actively engage in seeking such a compromise.

I very much hope that, in April 2012, at the conference under your chairmanship, we will be able to successfully reach agreement on the basic pillars for parliamentary involvement in Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) – on which considerable progress was already achieved in Brussels.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. Professor Norbert Lammert
President of the German Bundestag

Motion

tabled by the parliamentary groups of the CDU/CSU and FDP

Establishment of an interparliamentary conference on the common foreign and security policy and the common security and defence policy of the European Union

The Bundestag is requested to adopt the following motion:

The Bundestag notes:

Even after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and the common security and defence policy (CSDP) of the European Union remain a core responsibility of the Member States. The Bundestag is firmly convinced that political monitoring and scrutiny of activity in that area of policy by a European body comprising representatives of the EU Member States' national parliaments and of the European Parliament is indispensable. Such a body would also ensure that the main players in the fields of foreign and security policy in the Member States' parliaments and the European Parliament were linked into a network.

The Bundestag advocates the establishment of an international conference on the common foreign and security policy and the common security and defence policy of the European Union, a conference which would take the form described below; to this end, full use should be made of the scope offered by Protocol No 1 on the role of national parliaments in the European Union.

1. The task of this body would be to monitor and scrutinise all aspects of the CFSP and the CSDP. In order to do so, it should hear the High Representative, EU envoys and senior staff of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Commission, the Council and the Political and Social Committee (PSC).

There should be scope for the adoption, by majority vote, of joint conclusions, on which the High Representative, the Council or the Commission should be asked to deliver an opinion.

2. The composition of this body should reflect the diversity of national parliaments. The number of members from each parliament could be based proportionally on the distribution formula used for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The number of Members of the European Parliament should correspond to the number of representatives of the largest Member State. The participating

parliaments should be free to change the composition of their delegation so as to ensure, among other things, that it covers the items on the agenda.

3. The national parliament of each applicant country for accession to the EU and of each NATO member country may take part with observer status.
4. The conference should meet in Brussels. The venue should reflect the independence of the body and the intergovernmental nature of the CFSP and the CSDP.
5. The conference should be chaired by the national parliaments of the Troika formed by the previous, present and next incumbents of the EU presidency and should be responsible for scheduling meetings, setting the agenda and drafting the conclusions.

The chairmanship team should be assisted by a small secretariat of its own, composed of permanent staff and staff of the Troika countries' parliaments who are working in Brussels.

6. The body should hold plenary meetings at half-yearly intervals.

Berlin, 25 May 2011

Volker Kauder, Gerda Hasselfeldt and parliamentary group

Rainer Brüderle and parliamentary group