

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Athens, 11 January , 2011

Dear colleagues,

Further to your request for our opinion on your recent proposals regarding the format of the Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, first of all, I would like to thank you for your efforts in search of a viable compromise.

Having considered your points, as well as the response of the European Parliament's President Mr Jerzy Buzek, and following consultations with the Members of the Hellenic Parliament, competent on issues of Foreign Policy and Defense, I would like to let you know of our views.

Firstly we deem that issues already resolved by the previous EU Speakers Conference, should not be brought forward in our forthcoming meeting in Warsaw. On the contrary we must concentrate on pending matters. Further details can be elaborated by the Conference itself.

Secondly, we believe that the number of National Parliaments' delegation members should follow the model of COSAC (six MPs from each member state, with equal capacities). The notion of standing and alternate members seems to be irrelevant to the nature of the Conference, since it refers mostly to different structures of interparliamentary cooperation, such as parliamentary assemblies.

With regard to the quotas proposed about European Parliament's representation, we believe that it should be formulated in a way allowing participation from all EP political groups, yet, without affecting the nature and the aim of the Conference, which is mainly to enable parliamentary scrutiny of EU foreign and defense policies by National Parliaments.

Concluding, I would like to point out that we must all join efforts in order to pursue our goal of extending and enhancing parliamentary scrutiny and cooperation to the fields of common security, defense and foreign policy, without any delay.

Availing myself of the opportunity, dear colleagues, please accept my best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Signed: Philippos PETSALNIKOS

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