



Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

*H.E. Ms Ewa Kopacz,
Marshal of the Sejm*

*H.E. Mr Bogdan Borusewicz
Marshal of the Senate*

Riga, 24 January 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter, which includes your elaborated compromise proposal concerning the composition of the Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defence policy. In line with other opinions already expressed, I would like to share our position on your proposal.

First, we strongly believe that during our meeting in Warsaw we should only discuss and agree on those points which remained unsettled during the previous Presidency of the Speakers' Conference.

Second, on the size of the delegation, we support the principle of parity - the national parliaments and the European Parliament should have delegations of equal size. At the same time, we are in common position with the Swedish parliament, supporting the initiative to allow observers to be included in the delegation. This proposal might help to reach a compromise with those who support larger delegations.

Third, the organization of the Conference should rest on the Presiding national Parliament, with the support of COSAC's secretariat and national parliament representatives in Brussels. In our view, there is no need to establish a special permanent secretariat.

Finally, we fully support the proposal that allows candidate countries and Norway to take part at the Conference in observer status.

I hope this will help in your further consultations and in reaching a common position. After all, it is in our interests to reach an agreement at the next Speakers conference.

I would like to thank you for your efforts and I am looking forward to see in Warsaw in April.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and curves, positioned above the printed name.

Solvita Āboltiņa
Speaker of the Saeima
Republic of Latvia