



CORTES GENERALES

INFORME SOBRE LA XLVIII CONFERENCIA DE ÓRGANOS ESPECIALIZADOS EN ASUNTOS EUROPEOS (COSAC) CELEBRADA EN NICOSIA, DEL 14 AL 16 DE OCTUBRE DE 2012.

La XLVIII COSAC fue celebrada, bajo la organización de la Presidencia chipriota del Consejo de la Unión Europea, en el Centro de conferencias *Filoxenia*, en Nicosia, Chipre, del 14 al 16 de octubre de 2012. Previa autorización de las Mesas del Congreso y del Senado la delegación de las Cortes Generales que se desplazó a Chipre para participar en esta edición de la COSAC estuvo compuesta por los siguientes parlamentarios, todos ellos en calidad de miembros titulares de dicha delegación:

- Excmo. Sr. D. **Gerardo Camps Devesa**, Diputado, Presidente de la Comisión
- Excmo. Sr. D. **Rubén Moreno Palanques**, Diputado, G. P Popular
- Excmo. Sr. D. **Juan Moscoso del Prado Hernández**, Diputado, G. P. Socialista
- Excmo. Sr. D. **Iñaki Mirena Anasagasti Olabeaga**, Senador, G. P. EAJ-PNV

La delegación estuvo asistida por la Ilma. Sra. D^a. Carmen Sánchez-Abarca Gornals, Letrada, Representante Permanente de las Cortes ante la UE y por la Sra. D^a Carmen Domínguez Poza, Secretaria Administrativa de la Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales del Congreso de los Diputados.

El programa de la reunión y la lista completa de participantes se adjuntan al presente informe como anexos 1 y 2 respectivamente.

Domingo, 14 de octubre de 2012

El domingo, 14 de octubre, se celebró la reunión de la Troika presidencial, a la que únicamente asistieron las delegaciones chipriota, danesa, irlandesa y del Parlamento Europeo (PE). Las actas de dicha reunión, así como las de la propia COSAC, se adjuntan como anexos 3 y 4.

Ese mismo día, tras la llegada de la delegación española a Nicosia, se celebró una cena ofrecida por la Embajadora de España en Chipre, Sra. **Ana María Sálomon Pérez**.

Lunes, 15 de octubre de 2012

1. Intervenciones de bienvenida y asuntos procedimentales

1.1. Intervenciones de bienvenida

El lunes, 15 de octubre, tras las reuniones de grupos políticos, a las 9:30 horas el **Sr. Neofytou**, Presidente de la Comisión de Asuntos Europeos del Parlamento chipriota dio la bienvenida a todos los participantes, y despidió a los miembros de la COSAC que asisten a la Conferencia por última vez. Mencionó así mismo unas palabras en memoria del **Sr. Soravilla**, miembro de la COSAC durante los últimos 12 años y expresó sus condolencias a la familia por su reciente pérdida.

El **Sr. Neofytou** destacó, a continuación, el premio Nobel que ha sido concedido a la Unión Europea, como reconocimiento a la paz lograda, que es especialmente valorada en un país como Chipre, que sigue en conflicto. El Presidente de la República de Chipre, **Sr. Christofias**, no pudo asistir debido a su obligada asistencia a una reunión de carácter extraordinario sobre cuestiones económicas entre Chipre y la troika. El **Sr. Christofides**, Director de la Oficina del Presidente, leyó un comunicado en su nombre, en el que mostró su apoyo a la cooperación interparlamentaria, destacó las prioridades de la Presidencia chipriota y mostró su confianza en que se alcance un acuerdo sobre el Marco Financiero Multianual (MFM) en el Consejo de 22 y 23 de noviembre de 2012, y sobre la unión bancaria, antes de fin de año. El texto completo de su intervención se adjunta como anexo 5 al presente informe.

El **Sr. Omirou**, Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes chipriota se ausentó así mismo, debido a su asistencia a la citada reunión. En su nombre, leyó un comunicado el **Sr. Fittis**, en el que se abrió oficialmente la XLVIII COSAC y se insistió en la necesidad de encontrar nuevas vías que coloquen a la UE en el camino del desarrollo sostenible e inclusivo, a través de la consolidación fiscal y la resolución de los problemas estructurales de la moneda única.

1.2. Asuntos procedimentales

El **Sr. Neofytou** señaló que las intervenciones serían de dos minutos, y que las enmiendas a la Contribución y las Conclusiones debían presentarse antes de las 12 horas. Se aprobó el orden del día sin modificaciones. El 18º Informe semestral de la COSAC fue presentado por la **Sra. Kurien**, miembro permanente del secretariado de la COSAC, sin que se presentara ninguna objeción al mismo.

Por último, dentro de este punto del orden del día, el Presidente mencionó las cartas enviadas por Estonia y Hungría, informando de las reuniones previas celebradas por varios Parlamentos miembros de la COSAC.

2. Prioridades de la Presidencia chipriota del Consejo de la Unión Europea

El **Sr. Mavroyiannis**, Vice ministro de Asuntos Europeos de Chipre, señaló el momento crucial en el que Chipre ha asumido la Presidencia, y las prioridades que se han establecido para adaptarse a dicho contexto, entre las cuales destaca el MFM, el sistema europeo de asilo y la gobernanza económica. El texto completo de esta intervención se adjunta como anexo 6.

En el debate subsiguiente, se mencionaron temas como el papel del Parlamento Europeo en la negociación del MFM, la necesidad de que el presupuesto europeo sea mejor distribuido, para aumentar la creación de empleo, así como la dimensión mediterránea de la política de vecindad europea y la importancia de las políticas de cohesión. El **Sr. Marias**, del Parlamento griego, señaló la ausencia de representación del Parlamento turco, y el problema que ello plantea a la UE dada su condición de candidato a la adhesión.

3. De la teoría a la práctica: haciendo "más Europa" una realidad.

El **Sr. Sefcovic**, Vicepresidente de la Comisión europea, destacó en su intervención que el objetivo de lograr "más Europa" debe ser entendido no como un ataque a la soberanía de los Estados miembros, sino como una europeización de las políticas nacionales, para el beneficio de los Estados miembros. En el actual momento de crisis, la unión bancaria y la unión fiscal son necesarias para lograr dicho objetivo. En relación con el MFM defendió la propuesta de la Comisión de aumentar el presupuesto de la UE de 2014 a 2020, así como el nuevo sistema propuesto de recursos propios para la Unión. Otras cuestiones mencionadas por el Vicepresidente fueron la Unión Económica y Monetaria y su necesaria reforma, la resolución de los problemas que afectan al mercado interior, y la unión política reforzada en la UE. El texto completo de la intervención del **Sr. Sefcovic** se adjunta como anexo 7.

El **Sr. Casini**, Presidente de la Comisión constitucional del PE, se centró en la falta de legitimidad democrática que en su opinión caracteriza a la UE, lo que exige un replanteamiento del sistema electoral europeo y una mayor cooperación interparlamentaria.

A lo largo de las 30 intervenciones subsiguientes, los oradores coincidieron en señalar temas como la conveniencia de una respuesta individualizada de la Comisión europea a los dictámenes motivados enviados a la propuesta "Monti II", las vías para aumentar la legitimidad democrática de la UE, entre las que se destacó el papel de los Parlamentos nacionales y la necesidad, a medio plazo, de una reforma de los tratados europeos; así como de medidas a nivel europeo para afrontar la crisis y en especial, el problema del desempleo juvenil. El **Sr. Moreno Palanques** destacó por su parte que si bien existe un acuerdo sobre la necesidad de profundizar la unión económica y monetaria, ello por sí solo no es suficiente. Por ello, y para mantener la credibilidad de la UE, los

acuerdos adoptados en el Consejo europeo de junio 2012 deben ser ejecutados cuanto antes.

La delegación asistió a un almuerzo ofrecido en el restaurante *Kao-oaon* de Nicosia, por la Embajadora de España en Chipre, la **Sra. Ana María Sálomon Pérez**.

4. Energía - seguridad en el suministro.

Tras la pausa del almuerzo, continuó la reunión con la intervención del **Sr. Kassinis**, Director del Servicio de Energía del Ministerio de Comercio, industria y turismo de Chipre, cuya presentación se proyectó en griego. Informó a los asistentes sobre el reciente descubrimiento de reservas naturales de gas en la zona económica exclusiva de Chipre, y el potencial que ello ofrece de cara a la suficiencia energética europea.

5. Reunión de Presidentes para debatir las Conclusiones y la Contribución de la XLVIII COSAC.

En el punto referido al debate de las enmiendas a las Conclusiones y la Contribución por los jefes de delegación, el **Sr. Camps** fue sustituido por el **Sr. Moreno**. Los cuadros de enmiendas a las Conclusiones y la Contribución de la COSAC que se debatieron se adjuntan como anexo 8 y 9, respectivamente, al presente informe.

El **Sr. Moreno** intervino para defender, entre otras cuestiones, la posición de España en relación con la ejecución de los acuerdos adoptados por el Consejo europeo en junio 2012 en relación con la unión bancaria, en relación con la enmienda al punto 1.2 de la Contribución, que finalmente fue objeto de una transacción.

Dado que el sistema de voto electrónico no pudo ser utilizado debido a un error informático, la votación se realizó a mano alzada, tras recordar la Presidencia que cada Parlamento nacional cuenta, según las Reglas de Procedimiento de la COSAC, con dos votos. Los textos que fueron finalmente acordados por los jefes de delegación fueron remitidos para su aprobación en la sesión plenaria del día siguiente.

La delegación española asistió, una vez finalizada la reunión, a la cena ofrecida por la Presidencia chipriota en el *Golden Bay Hotel*.

Martes, 16 de octubre de 2012

1. Estrategia Europa 2020 - recuperación de la crisis económica.

A las 9:00 horas, y bajo la presidencia del **Sr. Neofytou**, quien se excusó por su ausencia el día anterior, comenzó la sesión dedicada a la Estrategia EU2020 con la intervención de la **Sra. Berès**, miembro de la Comisión de Empleo y Asuntos sociales del

PE. Tras exponer su optimismo en cuanto al desarrollo de los acuerdos del último Consejo europeo, señaló que la consecuencia inesperada del Pacto de Estabilidad y Crecimiento ha sido un avance en la integración europea, y que la idea de imponer impuestos a las transacciones financieras podría tener el mismo efecto.

Entre las intervenciones sobre este tema, destacó la del **Sr. Blaha**, de Eslovaquia, quien citó como ejemplo de democracia ciudadana a la cooperativa española de Mondragón. Un número significativo de oradores señaló la importancia de la vertiente social de las medidas de lucha contra la crisis, y especial la necesidad de afrontar el grave problema estructural que supone el paro juvenil. El **Sr. Moscoso del Prado** coincidió con el análisis de la **Sra. Berès**, si bien expresó su opinión de que, en la actualidad, la Estrategia EU2020 es rehén de una orientación macro económica equivocada en Europa, que ha optado por la austeridad, y los objetivos de esta Estrategia son por ello de muy difícil realización. Los recortes en las políticas de i+d+i y de educación en España han sido muy significativos, lo que perjudica a las políticas sociales, destruye el crecimiento y en definitiva cuestiona la posibilidad de poner fin a la crisis actual.

2. Gobernanza del Mercado Único.

El **Sr. Delsaux**, Director General adjunto de Mercado Interior y Servicios de la Comisión europea, comenzó su intervención señalando la necesidad de una unión bancaria para salir de la crisis financiera en la que está sumida la UE, pero así mismo destacó la mejora que debe acometerse en el mercado interior, que es una de las principales herramientas de la Unión para lograr crecimiento. La propuesta de la Comisión europea, conocida como *Single Market Act II*, busca adaptar las medidas europeas a la situación actual, a través de cuatro ejes fundamentales: redes y energía, y en especial el mercado marítimo interior; movilidad de ciudadanos y empresas, para lo que se propone desarrollar el portal EURES; fomento de la economía digital; y refuerzo de la confianza de los consumidores.

Por otra parte, el **Sr. Delsaux** adelantó el mensaje que la Comisión europea va a trasladar, con el objetivo de que los Estados miembros no retrasen la transposición de las Directivas al final de los plazos previstos, ya que ello suele implicar el incumplimiento de dichos plazos, y que la transposición se haga lo antes posible.

En el debate que se mantuvo a continuación, tomó la palabra entre otros miembros de la COSAC el **Sr. Moreno**, quien destacó que para España, quinta economía de la UE, el mercado único es un factor clave de crecimiento y empleo, y por ello España apoya la profundización en el mercado único de servicios, la agenda digital, el comercio electrónico y la contratación pública. Anunció así mismo el debate que se celebrará en la Comisión mixta para la UE de las Cortes Generales de proposiciones no de ley en relación con la mejora de la gobernabilidad del mercado único, y el papel de España en dicha mejora. En relación con la transposición de las directivas, sugirió que un trabajo de intercambio de mejores prácticas entre los Parlamentos nacionales podría resultar de utilidad.

Entre el resto de intervenciones, cabe destacar la del **Sr. Cash**, de la Cámara de los Comunes británica, que se opuso a cualquier injerencia de la Comisión europea en las decisiones del Reino Unido sobre la transposición de directivas a su ordenamiento jurídico, y sendas intervenciones de miembros griegos y del **Sr. Neofytou** exponiendo la extremadamente delicada situación financiera que la que se encuentran sus respectivos Estados. El **Sr. Delsaux** coincidió en considerar las decisiones que dichos Estados están obligados a tomar como difíciles, si bien señaló que no existe otra opción. Destacó por último el representante de la Comisión la necesidad de que los jóvenes europeos se formen en sectores como la informática, donde muchos de ellos podrán encontrar un futuro laboral.

3. Adopción de las Conclusiones y la Contribución de la XLVIII COSAC

Tras la presentación del texto final de las Conclusiones y la Contribución de la XLVIII COSAC por el **Sr. Neofytou**, varios miembros de la COSAC tomaron la palabra, y todos coincidieron en agradecer a la Presidencia chipriota la organización de esta edición de la COSAC. El **Sr. van Bommel**, miembro de la segunda Cámara de los Países Bajos, expuso que si bien su delegación no se opone a su aprobación, no consideran apropiado que la COSAC apruebe textos con un contenido tan político como los puntos 2.1 y 5.2 de la Contribución. En este mismo orden de cosas, el **Sr. Marías**, del Parlamento griego, señaló que junto a la Contribución, las opiniones individuales de los miembros de la COSAC deben ser tenidas en cuenta.

Acto seguido, fueron aprobados por asentimiento la Contribución y las Conclusiones de la XLVIII COSAC, incluyendo las enmiendas ya aceptadas por los jefes de delegación. Ambos textos se adjuntan al presente informe como anexos 10 y 11.

Por último, el **Sr. Hannigan**, del Parlamento irlandés, en representación de la Presidencia del Consejo de la UE que su país asumirá durante el primer semestre de 2013, anunció que la reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC se celebrará en Dublín los días 27 y 28 de enero, mientras que la plenaria se celebrará en esa misma ciudad del 23 al 25 de junio.

A las 12:10 horas el **Sr. Neofytou** dio por finalizada la XLVIII edición de la COSAC, invitando a los miembros a una comida en el propio centro de conferencias *Filoxenia*. Tras asistir a una recepción en la embajada de España en Chipre, la delegación emprendió al día siguiente por la mañana el viaje de regreso a España.

De Bruselas para Madrid, a 8 de noviembre de 2012

Carmen Sánchez-Abarca Gornals
Letrada representante permanente de las Cortes Generales ante la Unión Europea

ANEXOS
(en lengua inglesa)

Anexo 1. Programa de la reunión.

Anexo 2. Lista de participantes.

Anexo 3. Acta de la reunión de la Troika presidencial celebrada el 14 de octubre, elaborada por el Secretariado de la COSAC.

Anexo 4. Acta de la XLVIII COSAC, elaborada por el Secretariado de la COSAC.

Anexo 5. Texto de la intervención del Sr. Christofias, Presidente de la República de Chipre.

Anexo 6. Texto de la intervención del Sr. Mavroyiannis, Vice ministro de Asuntos Europeos de Chipre.

Anexo 7. Texto de la intervención del Sr. Sefcovic, Vicepresidente de la Comisión europea y Comisario de Relaciones institucionales y Administración.

Anexo 8. Cuadro de enmiendas a las Conclusiones de la XLVIII COSAC.

Anexo 9. Cuadro de enmiendas a la Contribución de la XLVIII COSAC.

Anexo 10. Texto final de la Contribución de la XLVIII COSAC.

Anexo 11. Texto final de las Conclusiones de la XLVIII COSAC.

Anexo 1. Programa de la reunión.



**Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments
of the European Union - XLVIII COSAC
Filoxenia Conference Centre, Nicosia
14 - 16 October 2012**

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 14 October 2012

Arrival of Delegations.

15.00 - 19.00 Registration at the hotels.

(Nicosia: Hilton Cyprus Hotel and Hilton Park Nicosia

Larnaka: Golden Bay Beach Hotel and Palm Beach Hotel & Bungalows)

For participants of the meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC

Venue: *Filoxenia* Conference Centre.

16.30 Departure by bus from the hotels in Larnaka.

17.00 Departure by bus from the hotels in Nicosia.

17.30 - 19.00 COSAC Presidential Troika Meeting

19.15 Departure by bus from the *Filoxenia* Conference Centre to the *Chateau Status* Restaurant.

18.45 Departure by bus from the hotels in Larnaka to the *Chateau Status* Restaurant.

19.15 Departure by bus from the hotels in Nicosia to the *Chateau Status* Restaurant.

20.00 Cultural event.

20.40 Welcome dinner hosted by

H.E. The President of the House of Representatives,

Mr. Yiannakis L. Omirou, at *Chateau Status* Restaurant, Nicosia.

22.30 Return by bus to the hotels.

Monday, 15 October 2012

For the participants of the meetings of Political Groups

Venue: *Filoxenia* Conference Centre

07.15 Departure by bus from the hotels in Larnaka.

07.30 Departure by bus from the hotels in Nicosia.

08.00 - 09.00 Meetings of Political Groups.

08.15 Departure by bus from the hotels in Larnaka to the *Filoxenia* Conference Centre.

08.45 Departure by bus from the hotels in Nicosia to the *Filoxenia* Conference Centre.

09.15 Welcoming addresses and procedural issues

- Welcoming addresses by:

H.E. The President of the Republic,
Mr. Demetris Christofias and
H.E. The President of the House of Representatives,
Mr. Yiannakis L. Omirou.

- Adoption of the Agenda of the XLVIII COSAC.
- Presentation of the 18th Bi-annual Report.
- Procedural issues.

10.00 State of Play/ Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Presentation by the Deputy Minister for EU Affairs,
Mr. Andreas Mavroyiannis.

Debate.

11.30 Coffee break.

11.50 From words to action: making “More Europe” a reality

Address by Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission for Inter-institutional Relations and Administration.

Address by Mr. Carlo Casini, Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament.

Debate.

13.15 Family photo.

13.30 Lunch hosted by Mr. Averof Neofytou,
Chairman of the House Standing Committee on
Foreign and European Affairs,
at *Halkos* Restaurant,
Filoxenia Conference Centre.

15.00 Energy - Security of Supply

Address by Mr. Solon Kassinis,
Director of Energy Service,
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

Debate.

16.45 End of Session.

17.00 Departure by bus to the hotels.

17.00 Chairpersons’ Meeting on the Conclusions and Contribution of the XLVIII COSAC

18.00 Chairpersons return to the hotels.

19.00 Departure by bus from the hotels in Nicosia
to the beach, at Golden Bay Hotel.

19.30 Departure from Palm Beach Hotel & Bungalows
to the beach at Golden Bay Hotel.

19.45 Beach party and barbeque, at Golden Bay Hotel.

22.00 Return by bus to the hotels.

Tuesday, 16 October 2012

08.00 Departure by bus from the hotels in Larnaka
to the *Filoxenia* Conference Centre.

08.30 Departure by bus from the hotels in Nicosia
to the *Filoxenia* Conference Centre.

09.00 Europe 2020 Strategy - Recovery from the Economic Crisis

Address by Ms Pervenche Berès, Chairwoman of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament.

Debate.

10.30 Coffee break.

10.50 Single Market-Governance

Address by Mr. Pierre Delsaux, Deputy Director General,
Directorate General, Internal Market and Services, European Commission.

Debate.

12.30 Adoption of the Conclusions and Contribution of the XLVIII COSAC

13.30 Lunch hosted by Mr. Averof Neofytou,
Chairman of the House Standing Committee on
Foreign and European Affairs,
at *Halkos* Restaurant,
Filoxenia Conference Centre.

15.00 Departure by bus to the hotels.

Anexo 2. Lista de participantes.

Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union - XLVIII COSAC

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

14 - 16 October 2012

Nicosia - Cyprus

11 October 2012

MEMBER STATES –

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

Nationalrat/ National Council/ Conseil national

Mr Fritz NEUGEBAUER Second President of the Austrian National Council, Chair of the Standing Subcommittee on EU Affairs

Mr Johannes HÜBNER Deputy Chair of the Standing Subcommittee on EU Affairs

Mr Wolfgang PIRKLHUBER Member of Parliament

Ms Katharina STOURZH Head of the Office of the Second President

Bundesrat/ Federal Council/ Conseil fédéral

Mr Edgar MAYER Chair of the EU Committee

Mr Stefan SCHENNACH Deputy Chair of the EU Committee

Mr Alexis WINTONIAK Deputy Secretary General of the Austrian Parliament

Mr Gerhard KOLLER Head of the European Relations Division

Mr Georg MAGERL Permanent Representative of the Austrian Parliament to the EU

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants

Mr Denis DUCARME Membre de la Chambre des Représentants de Belgique/ Member of the Advisory Committee on European Affairs

Mr Carlos DEMEYERE Fonctionnaire à la Chambre des Représentants de Belgique/ First Advisor European Affairs

Senate/ Sénat

Ms Marie-Aline STACANOV Representative of the Belgian Senate to the EP

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

Narodno Sabranie/ National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale

Ms Monika PANAYOTOVA Chairwoman, Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds

Mr Vladimir TOSHEV Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds

Ms Silviya HUBENOVA Member of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds

Mr Stanislav IVANOV Member of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds
 Mr Plamen ORESHARSKI Member of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds
 Ms Iskra MIHAYLOVA-KOPAROVA Member of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds
 Ms Daniela YAKOVA Junior Expert to the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds
 Ms Anna ASENOVA Permanent Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EP

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων/ House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants

Mr Averof NEOFYTOU Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

Mr Demetrios SYLLOURIS Member of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

Mr Christos MESSIS Member of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

Ms Athina KYRIAKIDOU Member of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

Mr Fidias SARIKAS Member of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

Ms Vassiliki ANASTASIADOU Acting Secretary General

Mr Dionyssis KOMBOS Director of European Affairs Service

Ms Hara PARLA Senior International Relations Officer

Presidency Secretariat/ Secrétariat de la Présidence

Ms Georgia ANDRONIKOU Director of Research, Studies and Publication Service

Ms Anthi TOFARICHief Research, Studies and Publications Officer

Mr Andreas CHIMONIDESHead of Communication Service

Ms Avgousta CHRISTOU International Relations Officer A'

Ms Sophie TSOURIS International Relations Officer A'

Mr Andreas CHRISTODOULOU European Affairs Officer A'

Mr Phivos HADJIGEORGIOU European Affairs Officer A'

Ms Maria SOTERIOU European Affairs Officer A'

Ms Georgia LIPERI European Affairs Officer

Ms Natia KARAYIANNI Secretary to Parliamentary Committees

Ms Evelyn MORIDOU International Relations Officer

Mr Vasilis KILIARIS International Relations Officer

Ms Maria ADAMIDOU PASTELLI European Affairs Officer

Ms Christallo ARGYRIDOU European Affairs Officer

Ms Elli GEORGIOU European Affairs Officer

Ms Elena FRAGKOPOULOU European Affairs Officer

Ms Eleni GEORGIOU International Relations Officer

Ms Loukia MOUYI International Relations Officer

Ms Ioanna SYGRASITI International Relations Officer

Ms Maria AGROTOU Chief Stenographer

Ms Eleni AGROTOU Senior Stenographer

Ms Eleni PAPANASTASIOU Stenographer

Mr Panicos ANTONIOU Technician

Mr Achilleas ACHILLEOS Technician

Mr Antonis ALEXANDROU Clerk

Mr Moisis MOISEOS Clerk

Mr Vasilis PANTELI Clerk

CZECH REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÉQUE

Poslanecka Snemovna/ Chamber of Deputies/ Chambre des Députés

Mr Jan BAUER MP, Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs

Mr František NOVOSAD MP, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs

Mr Jaroslav LOBKOWICZ MP, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs

Mr Josef ŠENFELD MP, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs

Ms Lenka MOZGOVÁ Head of the Secretariat of the Committee for European Affairs

Ms Klára URBANOVÁ Permanent Representative to the EP

Senát/ Senate/ Sénat

Mr Ludek SEFZIG Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs

Mr Miroslav KREJCA Vice-Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs

Ms Jana MALACOVA Permanent Representative to the EP

Mr Jan GRINC Advisor to the Committee on EU Affairs

DENMARK – DANEMARK

Folketinget/ Danish Parliament/ Parlement danois

Ms Eva KJER HANSEN Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Mr Jeppe KOFOED Member of the European Affairs Committee

Ms Pernille DELEURAN Head of International Division

Mr Morten KNUDSEN Principal EU Advisor

Mr Thomas SARUP Permanent Representative of the Folketing to the EU

Ms Louise JUUL Danish Folketing Representative to the COSAC Secretariat

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

Riigikogu/ The Estonian Parliament/ Parlement estonien

Mr Taavi RÕIVAS Chairman of EU Affairs Committee

Ms Marianne MIKKO Vice-Chairperson of EU Affairs Committee

Ms Kadri SIMSON Member of EU Affairs Committee

Ms Liisa-Ly PAKOSTA Member of EU Affairs Committee

Mr Kalle PALLING Member of EU Affairs Committee

Ms Kristi SÕBER Advisor of EU Affairs Committee

Ms Malle KUULER Permanent Representative to EP

FINLAND – FINLANDE

Eduskunta/ Parliament/ Parlement

Ms Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI Delegate, MP, Chair of the Grand Committee

Ms Anne LOUHELAINEN Delegate, MP

Ms Riitta MYLLER Delegate, MP

Ms Astrid THORS Delegate, MP

Mr Kimmo TIILIKAINEN Delegate, MP

Mr Jan VAPAAVUORI Delegate, MP

Mr Peter SARAMO Counsel of the Grand Committee,

Head of the EU Secretariat

Ms Pia NIEMINEN Permanent Representative of the Finnish Parliament to the EU

FRANCE – FRANCE

National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale

Ms Marie-Louise FORT Députée

Ms Axelle LEMAIRE Députée

Ms Pascale LAUZE Conseiller

Mr Édouard MICHEL Représentant permanent de l'Assemblée nationale français auprès de l'Union européenne
Senate/ Sénat
Mr Simon SUTOUR Président de la Commission des Affaires Européennes
Mr Jean BIZET Vice-Président de la Commission des Affaires Européennes
Ms Catherine MORIN-DESAILLY Vice-Président de la Commission des Affaires Européennes
Mr Jean-François HUMBERT Membre de la Commission des Affaires Européennes
Mr Sébastien RICHARD Administrateur-Adjoint Principal, Service de la Commission des Affaires Européennes

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

Deutscher Bundestag/ German Bundestag/ Bundestag allemand
Ms Gabriele MOLITOR Vice-Chairwoman of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
Mr Andrej HUNKO Member of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
Mr Michael STÜBGEN Member of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
Ms Bettina KUDLA Member of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
Ms Heike BADDENHAUSEN Head of Secretariat, Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
Ms Miriam DENKINGER Parliamentary Staff, Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
Bundesrat/ Federal Council/ Conseil fédéral
Mr Rainer ROBRA Member of the Committee on European Union Questions
Mr Andreas VEIT Deputy Head of the secretariat of the Committee on European Union Questions

GREECE – GRÉCE

Βουλή των Ελλήνων/ Hellenic Parliament/ Parlement hellénique
Mr Ioannis TRAGAKIS Chairman of the European Affairs Committee
Mr Filippos SAHINIDIS Member of the European Affairs Committee
Mr Epaminondas MARIAS Member of the European Affairs Committee
Ms Zoi KONSTANTOPOULOU Member of the European Affairs Committee
Ms Eleni KONSTANTINIDOU Head of the Department for the European Union

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

Országgyűlés/ National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale
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Mr Krisztian KOVACS Head of EU Department
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IRELAND – IRLANDE

Dáil Éireann/ House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants
Mr Dominic HANNIGAN Chairman of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs
Mr Timmy DOOLEY Member of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs
Ms Fidelma HEALY EAMES Member of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs
Mr Colm KEAVENEY Member of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs
Mr John HAMILTON Clerk to the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs
Mr Conor GOULDSBURY Secretariat to the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs
Mr Derek DIGNAM Permanent Representative of the Irish Parliament to the EU

ITALY – ITALIE

Camera dei Deputati/ Chamber of Deputies/ Chambre des Députés

Mr Enrico FARINONE Vice-President of European Union Policy Committee

Mr Nicola FORMICHELLA Member of European Union Policy Committee

Mr Nunziante CONSIGLIO Member of European Union Policy Committee

Mr Antonio ESPOSITO Official, EU Affairs Department

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Ms Marilena ADAMO Member of the EU Affairs Committee

Mr Manfred PINZGER Member of the EU Affairs Committee

Mr Giovanni BAIOCCHI Head of the Office, EU Affairs Committee

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LATVIA – LETTONIE

Saeima/ Parliament/ Parlement

Ms Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee

Mr Atis LEJIŅŠ Deputy Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee

Mr Igors PIMENOVS Secretary of the European Affairs Committee

Mr Girts OSTROVSKIS Advisor of the European Affairs Committee

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LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

Saeimas/ Parliament / Parlement

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Mr Arminas LYDEKA Member, Committee on European Affairs

Ms Birutė VĖSAITĖ Member, Committee on European Affairs

Mr Petras LUOMANAS Member, Committee on European Affairs

Ms Živilė PAVILONYTĖ Permanent Representative of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania to the EU

Ms Dovilė PAUŽAITĖ Adviser, Committee of European Affairs

LUXEMBOURG – LUXEMBOURG

Chambre des Députés/ Chamber of Deputies

Mr Ben FAYOT Député

Mr Eugène BERGER Député

Mr Felix BRAZ Député

Mr Gast GIBÉRYEN Député

Mr Fernand BODEN Député

Ms Isabelle BARRA Secrétaire Générale adjointe

NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal/ House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants

Mr Harry VAN BOMMEL Vice Chair of the EU Affairs Committee

Mr Michiel SERVAES Member of the EU Affairs Committee

Ms Désirée BONIS Member of the EU Affairs Committee

Mr Peter VAN KESSEL Deputy-Clerk to the EU Affairs Committee

Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal/ Senate/ Sénat

Mr Hans FRANKEN Member of the Committee for European Cooperation Organisations

Mr Peter VAN DIJK Member of the Committee for European Cooperation Organisations

Mr David RIJKS Policy Adviser

POLAND – POLOGNE

Sejm/ Sejm

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Ms Anna FOTYGA Deputy Chairwoman of the European Union Affairs Committee
Mr Andrzej GAŁAŻEWSKI Deputy Chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee
Mr Andrzej SZTORC Deputy Chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee
Mr Adam DUDZIC Deputy Director of the International Affairs Bureau
Ms Kaja KRAWCZYK Head of the EU Division
Ms Joanna KOWALSKA Secretary of the EU Affairs Committee
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Senat/ Senate/ Sénat
Mr Edmund WITTBRODT Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee
Mr Marek ZIÓŁKOWSKI Member of the EU Affairs Committee
Ms Lidia SPYRKO VEL ŚMIETANKO Head of the EU Affairs Unit
Ms Magdalena SKULIMOWSKA Permanent Representative of the Polish Senate Chancellery to the EU

PORTUGAL – PORTUGAL

Assembleia da Republica/ Assembly of the Republic/ Assemblée de la République
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Mr António RODRIGUES Member of the European Affairs Committee
Mr Carlos SÃO MARTINHO Member of the European Affairs Committee
Ms Maria Helena ANDRÉ Member of the European Affairs Committee
Mr Alberto COSTA Member of the European Affairs Committee
Mr José LINO RAMOS Member of the European Affairs Committee
Ms Ana VARGAS Adviser of the European Affairs Committee
Mr Bruno DIAS PINHEIRO Permanent Representative of the Portuguese Parliament to the EU
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Camera Deputatilor/ Chamber of Deputies/ Chambre des Députés
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Mr Tudor CHIUARIU Vice-Chairman of the European Affairs Committee
Mr Andrei MOCEAROV General Director of the General Directorate for Parliamentary Studies and European Law
Mr Dan MATEI Head of the European Affairs Committee Secretariat

SLOVAKIA – SLOVAQUIE

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Mr Ivan ŠTEFANEK Vice-Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
Mr Maroš KONDRÓT Member of the Committee on European Affairs
Mr Jozef VISKUPIČ Member of the Committee on European Affairs
Ms Mária SZETEI Secretary of the Committee on European Affairs

SLOVENIA – SLOVÉNIE

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Mr Marko POGAČNIK Deputy Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs
Mr Matevž FRANGEŽ Member of the Committee on EU Affairs
Mr Zvonko BERGANT Secretary of the Committee on EU Affairs
Državni Svet/ National Council/ Conseil national
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Mr Dušan ŠTRUS Head of the Legal Department

SPAIN - ESPAGNE

Congreso de los Diputados/ Congress of Deputies/ Congrès des Députés

Mr Gerardo CAMPS Chairman

Mr Rubén MORENO Member of Parliament

Mr Juan MOSCOSO DEL PRADO Member of Parliament

Ms Carmen SÁNCHEZ-ABARCA Permanent Representative of the Spanish Parliament to the EU

Ms Carmen DOMÍNGUEZ Administrative Staff

Senado/ Senate/ Sénat

Mr Iñaki Mirena ANASAGASTI Senator

SWEDEN – SUÉDE

Riksdagen/ Parliament/ Parlement

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Ms Marie GRANLUND Vice Chairperson, The Committee on European Union Affairs

Mr Bo BERNHARDSSON MP, The Committee on European Union Affairs

Mr Börje VESTLUND MP, The Committee on European Union Affairs

Ms Susanna HABY MP, The Committee on European Union Affairs

Mr Johan HEDIN MP, The Committee on European Union Affairs

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Mr Anders DÖLLING Deputy Secretary of the Committee on European Union Affairs

Ms Tuula ZETTERMAN Permanent Representative of the Swedish Parliament to the EU Institutions

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

House of Commons/ Chambre des Communes

Mr William CASH Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee

Mr Kelvin HOPKINS Member of the European Scrutiny Committee

Ms Sarah DAVIES Clerk of the European Scrutiny Committee

Mr Edward BEALE National Parliament Representative

House of Lords/ Chambre des Lords

Lord Timothy BOSWELL of Aynho Chairman, EU Committee

Lord Patrick CARTER of Coles Chairman, EU Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy Sub-Committee

Baroness Detta O’CATHAIN Chairman, EU Internal Market, Infrastructure and Employment Sub-Committee

Mr Jake VAUGHAN Head of Secretariat, EU Committee

Mr Duncan SAGAR National Parliament Representative, Brussels

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT/ PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN

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Mr Carlo CASINI Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Ms Edit BAUER Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Mr Andreas SCHWAB Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

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Ms Christiana FRYDA Permanent Representative of the House of Representatives of Cyprus at
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Ms Mary SAVVA Permanent Representative of the House of Representatives of Cyprus at the
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Mr Derek DIGNAM Permanent Representative of the Irish Parliament to the EU, Member of
the COSAC Secretariat
Ms Louise JUUL Danish Folketing Representative to the COSAC Secretariat

ACCEEDING COUNTRY – PAYS EN VOIE D'ADHÉSION

CROATIA – CROATIE

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Mr Damir MATELJAN Member of Parliament
Ms Melita MULIĆ Member of Parliament
Ms Danka PETRIČEVIĆ Head of Office for International and European Affairs

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES – PAYS CANDIDATS

FYROM – ARYM

Sobranie/ Assembly of the Republic/ Assemblée de la République
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Ms Liljana PETRESKA Adviser of the European Committee Affairs

ICELAND – ISLANDE

Althingi/ Parliament/ Parlement
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Mr Sigmundur David GUNNLAUGSSON Delegate, Member of Parliament
Ms Olof NORDAL Delegate, Member of Parliament
Mr Throstur Freyr GYLFASSON Delegation Secretary

SERBIA – SERBIE

Narodna Skupština/ National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale
Mr Laszlo VARGA Deputy Chairman of the EU Integration Committee
Mr Aleksandar DJORDJEVIĆ Secretary of the EU Integration Committee

OTHER PARTICIPANTS – AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION/ CONSEIL DE L' UNION EUROPÉENNE

Mr Richard CORBETT Member of the Cabinet of the President of the European Council
Mr Klaus SCHWAB Head of Unit, General Secretariat of the Council
Mr Olivier SEGANA Administrator in General Secretariat of the Council of the EU

CYPRUS PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION/ PRÉSIDENCE CHYPRIOTE DU CONSEIL DE L' UNION EUROPÉENNE

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Mr Solon KASSINIS Director of Energy Service, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
Ms Georgia APEYITOU Director of the Office of the Deputy Minister for EU Affairs
Mr Andreas KETTIS Second Councillor, Diplomatic Office of the President
Ms Irene PIKI Cyprus EU Presidency Secretariat, Head of Programme and Policy Coordination Unit
Ms Alexia GEORGIADES Cyprus EU Presidency Secretariat, Programme and Policy Coordination Unit, Officer
Mr Michalis CHRYSAPHIS Energy Officer, CIE, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

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Ms Gabriela KECKESOVA Member of the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič
Mr Jens NYMAND-CHRISTENSEN Director
Ms Dorthe CHRISTENSEN Deputy Head of Unit, Secretariat-General of the Commission
Mr Eleftherios ELEFThERIOU European Commission Representation in Cyprus
Ms Evi RUSO-DRAGOUMIS European Commission Representation in Cyprus

NORWAY / NORVÈGE

Storting/ Norwegian Parliament/ Parlement de Norvège
Mr Svein Roald HANSEN MP
Mr Per NESTANDE Senior Adviser

SPEAKERS/ ORATEURS

Mr Andreas MAVROYIANNIS Deputy Minister for EU Affairs
Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ Vice-President of the European Commission, European Commissioner for Inter-institutional Relations and Administration
Mr Carlo CASINI Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament
Ms Pervenche BERÈS Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament
Mr Pierre DELSAUX Deputy Director General, DG Internal Market and Services
Mr Solon KASSINIS Director of Energy Service, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

Anexo 3. Acta de la reunión de la Troika presidencial celebrada el 14 de octubre, elaborada por el Secretariado de la COSAC.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC

Nicosia, Cyprus, 14 October 2012

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

CHAIR: Mr Averof NEOFYTOU (*Vouli ton Antiprosopon*, Cyprus).

Mr Christos STYLIANIDES (*Vouli ton Antiprosopon*, Cyprus), Ms Eva KJER HANSEN (*Folketinget*, Denmark), Mr Dominic HANNIGAN (*Dáil Éireann*, Ireland), Mr Miguel Ángel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ and Mr Carlo CASINI (European Parliament).

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC**
- 2. Approval of the draft programme of the XLVIII COSAC**
- 3. Presentation of the 18th Bi-annual Report of COSAC**
- 4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC**
- 5. Letters received by the Presidency**
- 6. Any other business**

PROCEEDINGS

1. Adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Averof NEOFYTOU, Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*, who welcomed the delegations of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (hereinafter referred to as "the Troika").

In the absence of any objection, the agenda of the meeting of the Troika was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of the draft programme of the XLVIII COSAC

In the absence of any objection, the draft programme of the meeting of the XLVIII COSAC was adopted without amendment.

3. Presentation of the 18th Bi-annual Report of COSAC

Mr NEOFYTOU invited the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Ms Libby KURIEN, to give a short presentation of the 18th Bi-annual Report of COSAC.

Ms KURIEN presented the report aiming to exchange information on parliamentary procedures and practices and to inform the debates taking place in COSAC, providing details on its four chapters tackling 1) relations between the European institutions, 2) the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the economic and monetary union and the role of Parliaments, 3) Energy - trans European energy infrastructure, and 4) Single Market governance.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ expressed the view that the report could be adopted as it was since it reflected the answers given by national Parliaments to the questionnaire. He explained that the answers provided by the European Parliament had been elaborated by the administration and had not been formally ratified by political bodies because of the summer recess. In the meantime, however, the political decision-making bodies had fully

endorsed the responses and that the document submitted had gained the support of the European Parliament as such.

Ms KJER HANSEN said that the report was well prepared expressing her satisfaction for the inclusion of a chapter on Single Market governance. She noted that the report had shown that there was more room for working more with Single Market issues in national Parliaments.

Mr CASINI welcomed the fact that all Parliaments/Chambers had responded to the questionnaire, as it showed that all members of COSAC were interested in the European Union.

Mr NEOFYTOU reiterated that the report was well prepared and mentioned that Single Market governance was the way forward to tackle the financial crisis.

4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC

Mr NEOFYTOU said that the Presidency had received amendments from the European Parliament, the Polish *Sejm* and the Swedish *Riksdag*.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ expressed the view that the amendments seemed to be admissible and that usually more amendments were submitted during the meeting.

Mr HANNIGAN said that the amendments generally looked fine.

5. Letters received by the Presidency

Mr NEOFYTOU informed the members of the Troika about two letters that the Presidency had received:

- A letter from the Estonian *Riigikogu* regarding the traditional informal consultations of the European Union Affairs Committees of the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish parliaments.
- A letter from the Hungarian *Országgyűlés* regarding the meeting of the parliamentary EU Affairs Committees of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary in which the Croatian European Integration Committee participated for the first time.

6. Any other business

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ welcomed the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union stating that it was, as well, an award to national Parliaments and the European Parliament for very specific reasons. In this context, he underlined that it constituted both recognition of and a challenge for the European Union to maintain those specific reasons for which the award was granted. He further added that the award was a very important event especially in a country like Cyprus which had been suffering more than others from the consequences of lack of peace.

Mr NEOFYTOU agreed with Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ's comment stating that the comment was included in the next day's introductory remarks, but that it would be presented on behalf of the Troika at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr HANNIGAN announced that the COSAC Chairpersons meeting would be taking place in Dublin on 27 and 28 January 2013 and that the COSAC Plenary would be taking place in the same place on 23-25 June 2013.

Anexo 4. Acta de la XLVIII COSAC, elaborada por el Secretariado de la COSAC.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE XLVIII COSAC Nicosia, Cyprus, 14-16 October 2012

IN THE CHAIR: Mr Averof NEOFYTOU, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs (Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*).

AGENDA:

1. Welcome addresses and procedural issues

- Welcoming addresses by Mr Christos CHRISTOFIDIS, Representative of H.E. The President of the Republic Mr Demetris CHRISTOFIAS and Mr Sophoclis FITTIS, Representative of H.E. The President of the House of Representatives Mr Yiannakis L. OMIROU.
- Adoption of the agenda of the XLVIII COSAC.
- Presentation of the 18th Bi-annual Report of COSAC.
- Procedural issues.

2. State of play/ Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Keynote speaker: Mr Andreas MAVROYIANNIS, Deputy Minister for EU Affairs.

3. From words to action: making “more Europe” a reality

Keynote speakers: Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the European Commission for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration, and Mr Carlo CASINI, Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament.

4. Energy – security of supply

Keynote speakers: Mr Solon KASSINIS, Director of Energy Service, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

5. Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC

- Debate on the Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC.

6. Europe 2020 strategy – recovery from the economic crisis

Keynote speaker: Ms Pervenche BERÈS, Chairwoman of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament.

7. Single Market governance

Keynote speaker: Mr Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General, Directorate General, Internal Market and Services, European Commission.

8. Adoption of the Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC

PROCEEDINGS

1. Welcome addresses and procedural issues

Mr NEOFYTOU welcomed the participants and also bid farewell to the following parting colleagues thanking them for their long service to COSAC: Ms Monika PANAYOTOVA, Chairwoman, Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of the Bulgarian *Narodno Sabranie*; Mr Česlovas Vytautas STANKEVIČIUS, Chairman, Committee on European Affairs of the Lithuanian *Saeimas*; and Mr Ludek SEFZIG, Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Czech *Senát*. He expressed his deepest condolences to the family of Mr Roberto SORAVILLA, a COSAC member who recently passed away.

Mr NEOFYTOU then referred to the awarding of the Nobel Peace prize to the European Union in recent days and stated that the Presidential Troika had agreed to include a reference to this in the COSAC Contribution for the approval by delegations.

1.1 Welcome addresses

Mr Christos CHRISTOFIDES, Director of the Office of the President of the Republic, delivered a welcome address on behalf of Mr Demetris CHRISTOFIAS President of the Republic of Cyprus, who was detained elsewhere on urgent business. In his address he welcomed the increased role, under the Lisbon Treaty, of the European Parliament as co-legislator. He also said that the strengthening of the role of national Parliaments in the planning of strategy and the creation of EU policies was an important step towards reducing the democratic deficit faced by the Union. He spoke then about progress on the main priorities of the Cyprus Presidency; he hoped that political agreement would be reached on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) at the November European Council on a budget which would contribute to the strengthening of social convergence and cohesion. He also hoped also that there would be agreement on the establishment of the banking union by the end of their Presidency.

Mr Sophoclis FITTIS, on behalf of Mr Yiannakis L. OMIROU, President of the House of Representatives who had been detained elsewhere on urgent business, warmly welcomed the participants and officially opened the XLVIII meeting of COSAC. He urged the finding of new solutions and new ideas through which the EU could be set, once again, on the course of sustainable development without exclusions. This should be centred on fiscal consolidation and the revitalisation of investments and the freeing of the single currency from the structural problems it currently faces.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda of the XLVIII meeting of COSAC

Mr NEOFYTOU stated that interventions from the floor would be limited to two minutes and that any amendments to the Contribution or Conclusions should be submitted by 12 noon of the same day. In the absence of any objection, the agenda was then adopted without amendment.

1.3 Presentation of the 18th Bi-annual report of COSAC

The Chairman thanked the COSAC secretariat for its work in drafting the Report and invited the Permanent Member of the Secretariat to make a short presentation on the findings and conclusions of the Report.

1.4 Procedural issues

The Chairman noted two letters: one from Mr Taavi RÕIVAS, Chairman of EU Affairs Committee of the Estonian *Riigikogu* presenting the conclusions of a meeting between the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish Parliaments on 13-14 September; and the second from Mr Richárd HORCIK, Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Hungarian *Országgyűlés* presenting the conclusions of a meeting between the Hungarian, Polish, Czech and Slovakian Parliaments on 25-27 September at which the Croatian European Integration Committee also attended.

2. State of Play/ Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Keynote speaker: Mr Andreas MAVROYIANNIS, Deputy Minister for EU Affairs.

Mr Andreas MAVROYIANNIS, Deputy Minister for EU Affairs, opened his address by supporting the enhanced role of both the European Parliament and that of national Parliaments as stipulated in the Lisbon Treaty emphasising the importance of democratic accountability, as reflected in the report "Towards a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union" of June 2012. He added that close cooperation between the European Parliament and national Parliaments must be ensured for the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

Mr MAVROYIANNIS pointed out that Cyprus had held the Presidency at a very crucial period for the future of Europe due to the economic crisis. It had committed to working towards a better Europe, closer to its citizens, placing importance on social cohesion and on the principle of solidarity. The Cyprus Presidency had tried to set realistic and achievable goals. The main topics of the Presidency had been determined by the ongoing developments in the European Union, such as the completion of the negotiations of the new MFF, the completion of the Common European Asylum System, economic governance, the banking union, the 2013 budget and the Single Market Act (SMA).

Regarding the MFF, Mr MAVROYIANNIS said that the Cyprus Presidency wanted to complete the negotiations by the end of 2012 and reach an agreement for a budget that supported growth, employment, competitiveness and convergence, having in mind the Europe 2020 strategy, as discussed in the European Council in June 2012. In September, a revised negotiating box had been presented and a further one would

follow in view of the extraordinary European Council meeting on 22-23 November 2012 which would contain ranges in terms of figures.

Concerning the **Common European Asylum System**, Mr MAVROYIANNIS stated that an agreement had been reached on the Directive on Reception Conditions and the Dublin Regulation while the negotiations were progressing on the Directive on Procedures for examining applications for the Regulation Eurodac. With regards to Schengen governance the decision of the EP Conference of Presidents in September led to the re-opening of five files related to borders that had previously been suspended.

Mr MAVROYIANNIS emphasised that the Cyprus Presidency attached great importance to matters of **economic governance** and had given priority to the "Two Pack" proposals. The Presidency would continue its effort with the European Parliament to reach an agreement for these proposals by end of 2012.

The banking union proposals had already been discussed by an ad hoc Working Group and the Cyprus Presidency aimed at reaching an agreement on the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) by the end of 2012. The Presidency focused on the four pillars of the banking union, fiscal union, economic union and political union. The Minister further noted that the Deposit Guarantee Schemes and the Bank Recovery and Resolution proposals that are related to the SSM were also being discussed.

Another priority of the Cyprus Presidency was the **SMA**, Mr MAVROYIANNIS said that under the Danish Presidency one proposal under the SMA was concluded, six others were expected to be adopted under the Cyprus Presidency, while negotiations for five others will continue under the Irish Presidency. In addition, the Minister said that three of these proposals are dependant upon the MFF. The new SMA II had recently been published.

In the debate which followed, 19 speakers took the floor. A number of speakers expressed satisfaction at the progress of the work of the Cyprus Presidency. Mr Miguel Angel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ (European Parliament) thanked the Presidency for its good cooperation with the European Parliament and congratulated it for its ambitions and efficiency in realising its objectives. Referring to the Nobel Peace prize awarded to the EU, he said that this should be seen as recognition of what had been achieved in terms of peace, democracy and social progress, but also as a warning that "we should continue to stand by these values". In the context of the MFF, on which the European Parliament has to give its consent, Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ stated that the contents should fall in line with the Europe 2020 strategy in order to boost growth and create job opportunities. Mr Nunziante CONSIGLIO (Italian *Camera dei Deputati*) welcomed the emphasis the Cyprus Presidency attached to the Mediterranean dimension, as well as to the results achieved by the Presidency in terms of external borders and migration. Mr Fidiás SARIKAS (Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*) expressed the view that fiscal consolidation must be accompanied by long term strategies for growth in order to promote the creation of jobs. Mr Ľuboš BLAHA (Slovak *Národná rada*) supported the view that cohesion policy is the right track for the future and expressed satisfaction that the Presidency has taken this into account in the MFF. Mr Rainer ROBRA (German *Bundesrat*), underlining the importance of Cohesion Policy, took the view that the cuts, as decided by the Council, would endanger the structural funds in terms of unemployment and growth.

Mr Arni Thor SIGURDSON (Icelandic *Althingi*) referring to Iceland's accession to the EU, thanked the Cyprus Presidency for having supported accession negotiations so far. However, he expressed concern and disappointment towards the European Parliament resolution and towards the Council for the prolonged delay in the opening of the fisheries chapter.

Most of the participants expressed the need for a better and fairer distribution of the budget so that growth and the creation of job opportunities are promoted, while Mr Nicusor PĂDURARU, (Romanian *Camera Deputaţilor*), underlined the importance of the participation of all 27 Member States in the enforcement of the fiscal and sustainable policies that all 27 Member States should have equal opportunities and treatment regarding their participation in the banking union. Mr Edgar MAYER (Austrian *Bundesrat*), Ms Gabriele MOLITOR (German *Bundestag*) and Lord Timothy BOSWELL of Aynho (UK *House of Lords*) said that the budget needed to be better spent rather than increased.

Mr Epaminondas MARIAS, (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*) noted the absence of Turkey at the meeting, a country that is candidate for accession at the EU but yet at the same time a country that refuses to recognise, both the Cyprus Presidency, as well as the implementation of the Customs Union. He further added that Turkey also created problems at an international level by not signing EU declarations which involve Cyprus.

Mr MAVROYIANNIS, noting and acknowledging the difficulty and sensitivity of the fisheries chapter for Iceland, said that the EU does not proceed with threats, that the fisheries chapter should be opened under the right circumstances and pointed out that this could be done under the Irish Presidency. Concerning Cohesion Policy, he pointed out that the focus should be quality spending, helping those who are in more need and, in particular those in less developed regions.

Mr MAVROYIANNIS stated that the Cyprus Presidency had attached importance to the Mediterranean dimension and has taken into account various factors to ensure pluralism, respect to minorities and reduction of diversity. He further explained that in order to have control of borders, the rule and regulations of the European Asylum system must be common for all and that though this matter cannot be concluded by the end of 2012, work was needed in order to have clarity on various categories, including, illegal and legal migration, asylum seekers. On the MFF, he underlined that the Presidency had no wish to reduce the budget downwards, but that there was a need to reach a compromise having in mind the diversity of proposals. Balance was also needed between austerity and fiscal discipline. With regards to the banking union, he agreed that transparency and accountability were needed, as well as a clear separation between the monetary function and that of the supervisor.

With regards to social cohesion, Mr MAVROYIANNIS said that importance was attached to it and that fiscal capacity was being considered for each Member State that is under a specific structural programme. Concerning the comments for better spending, he said that better spending was quality spending and that the budget should be orientated towards the future with "every euro well spent". On the issue of own resources, he went on to say that it was clear that an agreement by all 27 Member States could not be reached on the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) as an own resource and that there was currently an initiative by 11 Member States to have enhanced cooperation on the FTT and that the income from this initiative will be a national resource.

3. From words to action: making “more Europe” a reality

Keynote speakers: Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the European Commission for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration and Mr Carlo CASINI, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament.

Vice-President ŠEFČOVIČ said that the desire for "more Europe" was not a power grab by Brussels or an attack on national sovereignty but about the "Europeanisation" of national politics to the advantage of Member States and citizens. The crisis had moved from financial and economic to social and political as well. Europe was still in difficult times but remedies applied were not all wrong. Hard decisions had been taken to tackle the crisis and its root causes which he believed was due to the irresponsibility of the financial sector, unsustainable public debts, and weak competitiveness in some Member States.

He said that, at this time when the EU appeared far from unified, there were major challenges ahead and deeper reforms were needed at the national level and deeper EMU was needed at the European level. The creation of a banking union and a fiscal union, and the necessary institutional and political mechanisms were required. He asserted that "more Europe" was the only approach which would bring the required unity.

With the MFF, the Commission wanted to boost growth and jobs across the EU and to give value for money to European citizens, companies and governments. Many Member States wanted the figures in the MFF to reflect the climate of austerity and budgetary consolidation but he argued that the current climate was all the more reason to maintain the Commission proposed EU budget as it gave real added value for every euro spent. The reality was that the EU budget was only 1% of EU GNI and only 2% of Member States' national budgets. He said that the EU budget in 2020 could not be the same as it was in 1990. This would be an unacceptable step backwards. He also appealed for the Commission's proposal for a new own resources system to be accepted.

On the deepening of the **EMU and the banking union**, the Vice-President said that it was clear that the economic wellbeing of the entire EU – not just the euro area – was interconnected, and that was why a stronger and more binding economic governance framework was needed. The banking union would be one of the key pillars on which a deeper EMU could be built, and the Commission, on the 12 of September 2012, had adopted a

legislative proposal for a SSM based on the conferral of specific supervisory tasks to the ECB.¹ He said that the SSM should apply to all euro-area Member State and also be open to the participation of any other Member States. He said there was a need for strengthening the democratic dimension of the EMU. The Commission would set out its views on how to progress this later in the year. The second element of a deeper economic union was the move towards a fiscal union.

The Commission had also put forward proposals to tackle the outstanding obstacles in the **internal market**; it had presented proposals for a modern industrial policy strategy, to be followed by an action plan to contribute to a more entrepreneurial Europe; and before the end of the year, the Commission would launch a youth package to establish a youth guarantee scheme and equality framework to facilitate vocational training.

On the subject of **political union**, Vice-President ŠEFČOVIČ highlighted the need to move towards a federation of nation states, as set out by President Barroso in his recent State of the Union speech. In this regard "more Europe" meant a deeper integration, cooperation and coordination that recognised and respected the national sovereignties and identities of the Member States. This would only be possible if there was more democratic accountability and transparency. In his opinion, there was no need for new institutions to make the move towards deeper integration, but there was the need for a thorough Europe-wide debate on the issue.

Mr Carlo CASINI, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament, concentrated his remarks on how he thought "more Europe" should be legitimised by reigniting the **European Parliament elections** and through **interparliamentary cooperation**. He noted that since 1979, turnout for the EP elections had continually decreased in all Member States. The question of why had to be asked as well as taking action to reverse the trend. Citizens had to be given a "dream" to focus on and this ideal should be interlinked with the democratic principles of "majority" and "result". The Lisbon Treaty had created two initiatives to help re-engage citizens - the European Citizens' Initiative and closer relations with national Parliaments - but there was the need to think beyond these instruments. Mr CASINI argued that democracy and legitimacy of the EU needed to be consolidated and that national Parliaments had a role in bringing the EU closer to its citizens. He argued that the national Parliaments could, or even had an obligation, to intervene and described this as "reverse subsidiarity" and said that they had a duty to clarify and illuminate EU matters.

The European Parliament elections would need to provide an answer to the question of "what is the point of the EU?" and provided an opportunity to reverse the trend towards distrust of the EU and its institutions. He identified three trends within the debate on this within the EP: that a genuine single currency including a banking union and further political union was needed; that plurality in governance was causing real problems and that it was important to ensure that this fragmentation is not anarchic; therefore it should be integrated within the community method; and that there was a need to develop the potential within the Lisbon Treaty and the TSCG. Speaking on Article 13 of the TSCG, he said that it would safeguard and consolidate current activity, referring to the interparliamentary meeting that had taken place before the Spring European Council.

Mr CASINI blamed **low voter turnout** on the absence of a genuine European political debate and the weakness of European political parties, the limited contrast between majority and opposition in EP, and the lack of influence people have over the membership of the Commission. To encourage re-engagement, it was important to remember the roots of the EU as a counter to the Second World War and a influence for peace in Europe. The Nobel Peace Prize was a reminder that the EU had been the most grandiose political project of all time. He concluded by suggesting the following as possible ways to stimulate greater turnout: the creation of European political parties; people should have the impression of choice; political parties should put forward candidates for the President of the Commission; the President of Commission could also be President of the European Council; 50% of Commissioners could come from the EP; the EP elections should all be held on the same day; and discussion on the reform for the elections should continue. This was with the aim to ensure that citizens know that "we are all together choosing for one Europe".

¹ "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority as regards its interaction with Council Regulation (EU) No.../... conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions," COM(2012) 512 final, published on 12 September 2012.

In the debate that followed, 29 speakers took the floor. Some spoke about the situation concerning the EMU and the financial situation within Europe, including Ms Athina KYRIAKIDOU (Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*) who said that the single supervisory body was a welcome step towards banking union and thought that the EU was on a good course for the future but it must continue to listen to the citizens and their concerns. Others warned the European supervisor must work well with national supervisors. Ms MOLITOR said that a more stable democratic basis was required in so far as the community method had not been used sufficiently. Ms Marie GRANLUND (Swedish *Riksdag*) said she understood that EMU countries needed to find a solution but warned that the process should not be accelerated too much. Vice-President ŠEFČOVIČ stated that the banking union should be able to accommodate all 27 Member States. The Commission was pushing for quick agreement, but wanted everyone to have the opportunity to be included and then treated equally. In response to Members who were conscious of the need for austerity, Vice-President ŠEFČOVIČ said that the EU should concentrate on creating growth and jobs, but acknowledged that reform had to be implemented.

Others concentrated their remarks on the deepening political union, many agreeing that "more Europe" was necessary. Mr Enrico FARINONE (Italian *Camera dei Deputati*) agreed with this and wanted to see a quality leap in the integration process. Public opinion was frightened but had to face the reality of globalisation which brought both huge responsibilities and opportunities. Mr Andrew DUFF (European Parliament) agreed with the need for further federalisation and said this should be extended to the form of a credible and discernable government, including a treasury secretary; to this end he called for a convention in spring 2015. Mr Andrzej GAŁAŻEWSKI (Polish *Sejm*) said that a new EU was emerging through the crisis mainly through inter-governmental agreements which would be a challenge for the EU in the future and called for more work to be done through the treaties. Mr Rubén MORENO (Spanish *Congreso de los Diputados*) said that it was crucial for the words to be put into action in the goal of deepening the EMU. Mr William CASH (UK *House of Commons*) said that the citizens would not accept federalism and they wanted less Europe and less interference in parliamentary and national life. Mr HANNIGAN said that it was important to do more in Europe on youth unemployment and to stimulate growth in order to increase citizen support for Europe and increase turnout at elections.

Replying to Mr DUFF, the Vice-President said that a treasury would likely be necessary but could be created within the current structures though he said that deeper integration would clearly need treaty change. He agreed with the need for greater democratic accountability and also wanted to see a leap in the integration process in line with this. He disagreed with the comments made by Mr CASH, saying that there needed to be a genuine debate about the EU in the UK, with the plus sides of the EU also being presented. Mr CASINI said there was a need to increase democracy through the creation of a genuine European demos and said that the focus of Europe should not only be on economic issues but also on other common ideas and values to ensure national interests that did not come to the fore. The political integration that failed in 1954 would be needed now.

On the subject of national Parliaments and the first subsidiarity check to reach the threshold to trigger the yellow card procedure on the Monti II proposal, a number of national Parliamentarians expressed the view that the Commission should have replied to all of the Reasoned Opinions or given a more precise response to the points raised. Lord BOSWELL of Aynho commented that each Reasoned Opinion deserved a reasoned response. Others, including Ms Iva DIMIC (Slovenian *Državni zbor*), were concerned by the fact that the Commission had made a sweeping statement that the withdrawal of the proposal was not related to subsidiarity concerns that had been raised. To these points, the Vice-President said that the first yellow card had been a learning experience for all. He assured Members that the Reasoned Opinions had been studied carefully and national Parliaments had been listened to and that the proposal had been withdrawn as it had been made clear that unanimity would not be possible. According to him, it was hard to say that subsidiarity had been breached, expressing the view that this was a legalistic discussion. He apologised for the technical translation problem that meant that Council and the EP were informed of the decision to withdraw the proposal before national Parliaments. On the political dialogue, he was pleased that the number of opinions was around 800 for this year and although this caused pressure on Commission resources, he saw this as a genuine dialogue. He apologised that responses from the Commission were received after the three month self-imposed deadline and he appealed to the Commission to do better. He acknowledged the criticism of the quality of the replies expressing hope this would also improve.

4. Energy – security of supply

Keynote speakers: Mr Solon KASSINIS, Director of Energy Service, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

Mr Solon KASSINIS, Director of Energy Services, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus, opened his address by pointing out that energy policy was at the epicentre of the European construction with two treaties signed in 1951 and 1957 and briefly outlined the development of energy policy in Europe until the adoption of the third energy package in 2009. Over the time the focus had changed to combating climate change and reducing CO₂ emissions. Energy markets were unstable and characterised by uncertainty due to constantly increasing prices and dependency from third countries.

Mr KASSINIS informed the meeting about the most updated technical details concerning the recent **discovery of own natural gas resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus** and its potential for Europe's future security of supply with energy in view of the increasing demand for natural gas in Europe as well as the decrease in internal gas resources. Cyprus had taken the political decision to set up two liquefaction plants and intended to become the world's second largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) after Qatar. He also informed the meeting about plans to create a gas pipeline to Crete and further on to the Athens area as well as undersea electricity connections to the Peloponnese and Israel. The recently discovered natural gas resources in the EEZ of Cyprus together with interconnectivity could help diversifying Europe's energy sources and complete the internal market in energy as thus guarantee security of energy supply for the EU, while at the same time reducing the EU's dependency from external suppliers.

During the ensuing debate 14 speakers took the floor. While there was a general agreement among speakers of the need to achieve a long-term sustainable and low-carbon energy production by 2050, interventions showed that views among parliamentarians varied broadly as concerns the means, the roadmap and the energy mix for the next decades. For Example, Mr Christos MESSIS (Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*) highlighted that decisions in the area of energy had to fall in line with the long-term strategy of decarbonisation.

While many speakers congratulated Cyprus for exploring new fossil energy resources, Mr Stefan SCHENNACH (Austrian *Bundesrat*) struck a slightly different note. He made reference to the potential negative impacts on the Mediterranean environment and the necessity of carbon reduction measures, as well as of energy efficiency. Alternatives to the exploitation of the natural gas resources in the Mediterranean could be wind energy and photovoltaic energy. This view was also supported by Ms Catherine MORIN-DESAILLY (French *Sénat*) who highlighted that in the fight against climate change a different energy supply than that of today based on fossil fuels was needed. She advocated an energy mix generated from photovoltaic, bio energy, biomass and wave energy. Mr Jean BIZET (French *Sénat*) was critical that the chapter on shale gas was closed too quickly in France and defended the use of nuclear power. Mr MAYER voiced, however, the Austrian opposition to nuclear energy, pointing instead to the use of hydro-electricity, biogas and biomass as alternatives for his country. Ms Agnieszka POMAKA and Ms Anna FOTYGA (both Polish *Sejm*) made it clear that their country placed great hopes in the development of shale gas which, in awareness of environmental concerns, they wanted to be classified as a clean energy source.

Almost all speakers mentioned the need for improved energy infrastructures but again some, for example Ms FOTYGA, criticised certain specific projects while others like Mr TOSHEV expressed support for the Connecting Europe Facility to finance trans-European energy infrastructures but also expressed reservations against this being financed to the detriment of structural and cohesion funding. Moreover, Mr VISKUPIČ, amongst others, expressed the view that Europe needed a fully integrated and interconnected energy market for boosting the competitiveness and job creation in Europe. In contrast, Mr MESSIS pointed out that the COSAC Bi-annual Report showed the various concerns expressed by some national Parliaments in terms of the energy infrastructure guidelines proposed by the European Commission.

During the debate, a vast diversity of views were also expressed on the role of planning (by the EU or at national level) versus the role of the market forces. Some members like Mr Kelvin HOPKINS (UK *House of Commons*) pointed out that privatisation worked out neither for the consumer nor for the modernisation of the energy sector. He advocated the German, more interventionist approach to steer energy production through the use of renewable energy sources, and said this development had to be driven by the EU. Mr HANSEN took the view that transparency was of essential importance for energy security with a clear distinction of tasks between authorities and the industry. Lord Patrick CARTER of Coles (UK *House of Lords*) said this should not be used to excuse the responsibility of Member States to have sufficient generating capacity to meet their own domestic needs and of course to pay attention to a realistic roadmap towards sustainability. Mr VESTLUND said that COSAC should have held more discussions about energy efficiency and renewable energies.

In reply, Mr KASSINIS underlined that Cyprus also wants to reduce carbon emissions and for this reason wanted to replace oil with gas. His main message was that Cyprus' own findings of natural gas helped in the overall thrust in making Cyprus fully green. According to him, the transformation to a low-carbon energy production in Cyprus was already underway: the country's objective was to generate 200 MW from renewable energy sources by 2020. By 2013 Cyprus hoped, according to him, to have 50 MW photovoltaic electricity production up and 92 percent of Cypriot houses should have a solar water heater. There were also 21 different subsidy programmes to help people to preserve energy. He also informed the meeting that Cyprus has already equipped 1.000 houses with smart grids as a pilot project along with other energy conservation measures. Finally, he expressed hope that by 2050 technological developments would be such that a low-carbon economy would be possible. He agreed on the need to use all different sorts of energy including renewable energies, while voicing concerns on shale gas and its impact on the environment which ought to be monitored closely to avoid environmental problems.

5. Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC

Mr STYLIANIDES, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs (Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*), informed the Chairpersons that the Cyprus Presidency had submitted the first draft of the Contribution and Conclusions on 26 September. Since then the Presidency had received amendments from national Parliaments and the European Parliament on both documents. Following a debate, an amended text of the Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC was voted and agreed.

6. Europe 2020 strategy – recovery from the economic crisis

Keynote speaker: Ms Pervenche BERÈS, Chairwoman of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament.

Ms Pervenche BERÈS, Chairwoman of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament, appreciated the invitation to speak on the **Europe 2020 strategy** which she believed was one of the essential tools that would help European countries together to find a way out of the financial crisis. As a consequence of the failed Lisbon strategy the Europe 2020 strategy had to be brought to life at all levels and the National Reform Programmes (NRP), as the starting point for discussion, should enter the public arena and be debated not exclusively between the EP and the Council of Ministers but also in national Parliaments with their governments. She agreed with President Barroso that the European **social model** was one of the assets of Europe, and argued preserving it was highly relevant to ensuring an end to the current crisis. The Europe 2020 strategy must therefore be adequately funded and specific funding must be earmarked to ensure its successful implementation. The **five objectives** of the EU2020 strategy were even more topical in the current crisis because they included, for example, the statement that every single young person needed to be given a future, it had identified the essential nature of education and training and it aimed to see a 20% decrease in poverty by 2020. In practical terms this meant more proposals such as the recent "**youth guarantee**" to implement the strong points of Europe 2020 strategy. This proposal was essential for three reasons: to ensure there is not a "lost generation"; to promote intergenerational solidarity; and to promote competitiveness, based on innovation that the next generation would implement. A correct implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy had to force politicians to correct the EU's internal imbalances. Too many still took a short-term perspective and because of that no real balance between the necessary austerity measures and the maintenance of added value and the capacity for growth had been found.

The Europe 2020 strategy was one of the key ways to bring EU added value to the money invested by Member States in the European project. This was why the strategy must be adequately funded which included a recapitalisation of the EIB. The Stability and Growth Pact did not allow the EU to fully tap the potential of the single currency and developed internal macro-economic imbalances that caused problems. Ms BERÈS called for the reallocation of **structural funds** and supported the idea of the **FTT** as a way to raise EU own resources. She characterised the decision of 11 Member States to proceed with the FTT under enhanced cooperation as a crucial breakthrough and argued this could anyway be used as a source of finance for EU initiatives, though acknowledged others thought this would not be possible. The FTT was a means to bring about capital markets regulation and a necessary correction. She re-emphasised the social dimension of the current crisis and proposed that the troika, working with those countries that had required a financial bail out, should also include a member of International Labour Organisation (ILO) to balance its work to pay more consideration to the social needs of the people of Europe.

26 speakers took the floor during the debate. Many responded to the comments by Ms BERÈS on the European social model, with some Members agreeing that the EU must not sacrifice the social model due to the reforms taking place, whilst others argued that there was no incompatibility between reforms and maintaining the European social model. Others emphasised the need for the model to be reformed and modernised to reflect the times. Ms Edit BAUER (European Parliament) said that recent Eurostat indicators showed that the EU was proceeding very slowly in achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, especially as regards employment, fighting early school leaving and poverty. Ms Maria Helena ANDRE (Portuguese *Assembleia da República*) emphasised the need for sustainable growth as a key part of the Europe 2020 strategy and said that the needs of the citizens could not be met without a strong EU budget. Mr ROBRA pointed to the need for greater democratic accountability of the Europe 2020 strategy but acknowledged this would be difficult in view of the short deadlines and said that the use of cohesion policy budget should be flexible and not bound by central guidance.

Many Members, including Ms MOLITOR, also spoke of the need for the EU to focus on the promotion of growth and the creation of jobs, and in particular the need to tackle youth unemployment. Ms Axelle LEMARIE (French *Assemblée nationale*) said that social inclusion should be seen as a vector for competitiveness and for stimulating growth. Mr MESSIS said that the EU must come out of crisis stronger to be able to compete in the globalised world. Mr CASH commented that EU countries needed to be more competitive and must invest in education and warned that recent events had shown that people were dissatisfied with the EU. Mr Marko POGACNIK (Slovenian *Državni zbor*) said that the European semester was introduced to help the recovery and pointed to the importance of national Parliaments being consulted within the process. Mr Nicola FORMICHELLA (Italian *Camera dei Deputati*) said that the European Council in December should start looking at measures such as European project bonds.

On the FTT, Baroness Detta O'CATHAIN, (UK *House of Lords*) said that she did not think it was possible to raise own resources within the framework of enhanced coordination and asked how then the FTT revenue could be used for fighting youth unemployment. Mr NEOFYTOU said that the FTT had to be considered carefully due to the possibility that it could lead to negative consequences by causing a shift of business out of Europe. Mr Fernand BODEN (Luxembourg *Chambre des Députés*) did not think it was the best solution to the problem and would only cause a break in financial activity in Europe and argued that other forms of taxation were more appropriate.

Mr Epaminondas MARIAS (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*) and other Members were very critical of the action of the troika for imposing too harsh bailout conditions and said that these were having a detrimental and dramatic impact on citizens.

In response, Ms BERÈS said that the EU had not fully exploited the Lisbon Treaty, particularly Article 9 TFEU on the promotion of a high level of employment and the guarantee of adequate social protection, and a high level of education and training and that more needed to be done in this regard. She reemphasised that alongside the Europe 2020 strategy an investment strategy was badly needed and referred to the IMF's message to combine financial discipline with investments to avoid a collapse. Unfortunately, instead of implementing the Lisbon strategy by investing in education and training during these ten years half of the Member States had reduced their education budgets according to OECD figures. She again emphasised her point that the social model must remain beyond the crisis but said that it should of course be modernised. She also said that the Commission should look at strategic investments in national reform programmes.

Ms BERÈS said that she believed that the FTT revenues could be used by Member States to be able to rectify what is happening nationally, she welcomed any ideas from Mr BAYOT for a better system but had not heard any herself before now. On Greece, BERÈS responded that the troika should become a quartet to include the ILO so that EU values would be correctly implemented.

Ms BERÈS called on national Parliaments to support the objective to earmark 25% of cohesion funds for the European Social Fund (ESF). She noted that, after two years, the Europe 2020 strategy would benefit from the efforts of the European Council to foster a better balance between growth and economic austerity and she believed this would bring greater success in the future. She concluded by emphasising the importance of solidarity, arguing that the Nobel Peace Prize obliged the EU to act. The EU should listen to the IMF: austerity alone could not get the EU out of the crisis. It had to be recognised that the free-market forces and the lack of regulation had unleashed the crisis. Structural reforms must be examined carefully for their implications, the social model must be modernised and saved and European values must underpin the situation.

7. Single Market governance

Keynote speaker: Mr Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General, Directorate General, Internal Market and Services, European Commission.

Mr Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General, Directorate General, Internal Market and Services, European Commission, said that in order to find a solution to the crisis a stable financial market and an improvement of the **banking system** in Europe were needed, but it was also necessary to take into account the aspects of growth and the development of the European market for employment. As Europe was not rich in natural resources, Mr DELSAUX argued that the only available tool for growth was the internal market and it was important that it was continually improved. The **internal market** was, of course, not the instant solution to the crisis as it would not stimulate growth from one day to the next, but a whole host of measures would in concert create growth.

In April 2011, the Commission presented its first act on the Single Market with 12 priority actions. Mr DELSAUX explained that the **Single Market Act I** (SMA I) had not only focused on opening up markets, but also touched on the social and environmental dimension of the Single Market. Mr DELSAUX said that only one measure had been adopted at European level. The European patent, e-public market and the mobility of workers were examples which were mentioned as important measures that were still being discussed, but which would result in economic gains if they were transposed.

Mr DELSAUX continued by stating that Europe had to move quickly otherwise no effects would be felt for years, something which has led the Commission to adopt a **Single Market Act II** (SMA II). He said that the SMA II was based on four common sense priorities, which, if adopted before 2014 would be a reality by 2016:

- **Networks and energy** - where focus would be, among other things, on an internal maritime market, a single European sky and a fully integrated European internal energy market;
- **Mobility of citizens and enterprises** in which, for example, the EURES portal would be developed into a tool with which people could search for jobs in other Member States and EU's insolvency rules will be modernised;
- **Digital economy** with focus on e-commerce, online payment services and electronic invoicing in public procurement; and
- **Confidence of the consumers** – all EU citizens should have access to a basic bank account and the costs attached to this should be transparent and comparable.

Regarding the issue of governance, Mr DELSAUX explained that measures adopted at EU level were transposed with an average delay of nine months (i.e. two years nine months after adoption). At the Council meeting in June the issue of **directive transposition** had been discussed and it was suggested that the Commission should have contact with the Member States immediately after the EU level adoption to avoid the possibility that Member States wait with the transposition until the deadline had passed. Furthermore a commitment was made for a zero deficit rate for transposition. Mr DELSAUX concluded by explaining that if the Services directive was implemented in all Member States it would have an effect of, for example, 2.5 % GDP growth in Germany and 4% in Cyprus.

During the ensuing debate, 15 speakers took the floor. There was a general support to the strengthening of the internal market. Several Members argued that the digital deficit was still severe and that a single digital market should be prioritised as it would bring real savings of both time and money, as argued by Mr VISKUPIČ. Mr ROBRA encouraged the Commission to present a proposal for broadband networks. Better conditions for SMEs and improved public procurement rules were other topics which concerned several Members. For example, Mr Carlos SAO MARTINHO (Portuguese *Assembleia da República*) explained that SMEs were being condemned as they could no longer get credit. Mr VESTLUND and Mr MORENO called for a solution to the problem with the Services directive, arguing that better implementation could have direct effect on GDP. Ms Zoi KONSTANTOPOULOU (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*) pointed out that the economic costs of the EU should not exceed the social costs and explained that e-services were good. Baroness O'CATHAIN suggested that two or three of the SMA II actions should be prioritised in the national Parliaments as they would be able to make a huge impact that way.

Mr DELSAUX replied and said that regarding the digital agenda it would not be enough just to talk about it, action was needed and national Parliaments could help by passing that message to their government. Mr

DELSAUX suggested that national Parliaments should contact their governments with concerns on Commission proposals before the texts reached the transposition stage. Furthermore he said that the link between national Parliaments and the Commission should be boosted.

Mr NEOFYTOU ended the debate by saying that the systemic problems was one of the main causes to the economic crisis, but wrong policies implemented by the states had also played a big role. He added that reforms which had been long overdue needed to be implemented, underlining the importance of the EU and the support it gave, even though it came with strict conditions.

8. Adoption of the Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC

Mr NEOFYTOU presented the final draft of the Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC to the meeting. He reported that the documents had been amended during a lively debate and voting in the Chairpersons meeting held the day before. He noted one necessary change in the English version, following a printing mistake, to correct paragraph 5.1 of the Contribution to read, “COSAC reaffirms the need for collective effort in order to effectively tackle the social and economic crisis...”

A number of Members took the floor. Mr CASH said that the XLVIII COSAC had been held at an important time when there was much talk in the UK of referendum and said he was increasingly concerned about the democratic deficit in Europe.

Harry van BOMMEL (Dutch *Tweede Kamer*) said that the Dutch delegation was not against the Contribution but thought it inappropriate for COSAC to adopt positions on political matters such as those in paragraphs 2.1 and 5.2 of the Contribution. He expressed the view that COSAC was a forum to exchange views not to adopt such positions. Mr MARIAS wished to have it noted that the Contribution and Conclusions would be adopted by those who supported the decisions of COSAC but that the individual positions that each participant had made through his/her intervention during the meeting should also be taken into account

Lord BOSWELL of Aynho wished to record his personal thanks to the Cyprus Presidency and his hope that COSAC could discuss afresh the subsidiarity check, not just as a legal tool, but as a way of expressing national views and political concerns, to demand more from national governments and European agencies.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ commented on the positive and fruitful interaction between national Parliaments and the European Parliament during recent meetings of COSAC and paid tribute to the Polish, Danish and Cyprus Presidencies for making this possible.

Hereafter, the conference adopted the text of the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC as amended by the meeting of the Chairpersons. Once translated into all official languages of the EU, the Contribution of the XLVIII COSAC will be published in the Official Journal of the EU.

Finally, Mr HANNIGAN announced that the next meeting of the COSAC Chairpersons would take place on 27-28 January 2013 and the COSAC plenary meeting would be on 23-25 June 2013, both meetings would take place in Dublin.

Anexo 5. Texto de la intervención del Sr. Christofias, Presidente de la República de Chipre.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC MR DEMETRIS CHRISTOFIAS AT THE 48TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES FOR UNION AFFAIRS OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (COSAC)

(Nicosia, 15 October 2012)

Representative of the President of the House of Representatives (Sophocles Fyttis),

[Vice President of the European Commission (Mr Maros Sefkovic)]

Honourable members of the National Parliaments of the EU member states and candidate countries,

Honourable members of the European Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was a great pleasure for me to accept the invitation of the House of Representatives to address the 48th Conference of COSAC. Allow me first to extend to you a warm welcome to Cyprus and wish you a pleasant stay, in the hope that you will enjoy the Cypriot hospitality and return home with sweet memories of our island.

The holding of your Conference in Nicosia is undoubtedly one of the most important events in the calendar of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council, with regard to the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency. I would like to congratulate the House of Representatives and all who have been working hard for the successful organisation of the COSAC Conference in Cyprus.

On my part, as a former parliamentarian and former President of the Cyprus Parliament, I would like to express my personal satisfaction at the fact that the Reform Lisbon Treaty has greatly strengthened the role both of the European Parliament and of course of the national parliaments of the member states of our Union. Without a doubt, the European Parliament is now on an equal footing with the Council as a legislator for the vast majority of legislative proposals. Moreover, the role of the national parliaments has been reinforced as regards the exercise of control in connection with the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity, as well as with regard to their general participation in European affairs.

In my view, the strengthening of the role of national parliaments in the planning of strategy and the creation of the various European policies is an important step towards reducing the democratic deficit faced by the Union. There is no doubt that you, the representatives of the national parliaments, are closer to the citizens of the Union, and are therefore in a better position to be able to inform your citizens of developments in Europe. Your role and contribution is of definitive importance in our effort to halt the wave of nationalist populism which is growing so rapidly in so many EU countries. It is within this framework that inter-parliamentary cooperation within the EU has its own added value in the promotion of the increased political integration of Europe. As the Cyprus Presidency of the Council, I wish to assure you that we support and encourage the further strengthening of this inter-parliamentary cooperation.

There is no doubt that the COSAC Conference is taking place at a particularly interesting point in time for the first Cypriot Presidency of the Council. We have already entered the second half of our Presidency, and we remain unwaveringly devoted to our goal and continue our hard work to promote the common European interest.

When Cyprus undertook the Presidency of the Council of the European Union three months ago, our primary goal was to work as an honest broker to promote our common European priorities. Cyprus took over the Presidency with a powerful sense of responsibility and commitment to all the Member States.

I assure you that despite the problems and anomalies created in our country by the continued Turkish military occupation of the northern part of our island, our unwavering goal is to work exclusively as the presiding country, without allowing our national problem to cast a shadow over the work of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council. At the same time, we will not allow our role as the

presiding country to be set at risk because of the Cyprus problem. For us it is clear that **the Cyprus Presidency and the Cyprus problem are two separate but parallel processes.**

Like all Member States which undertake the Presidency of the Council in the second half of each year, we are working extremely intensively in order to cover a wide range of issues in a shorter space of time. Already, both the first month of our Presidency and September have fulfilled our expectations and we are ready for an even more intensive autumn. We will not relax in our vigilance: it is our duty and obligation to promote a number of issues and complete as many of these as we are able, in order to ensure a smooth continuation of the work of the Council.

Both at the preparation phase and during the Presidency itself, Cyprus is committed **to work in close cooperation with the European Parliament.** I myself declared this categorically before the plenary assembly of the European Parliament on 4 July, during the presentation of the agenda and priorities of the first Cyprus Presidency of the Council.

We have taken over the rotating Presidency in an admittedly very difficult economic period for all EU member states. It is with regret that we note that the current crisis which is beleaguering Europe and the Eurozone in particular, is unfortunately also giving rise to a crisis of confidence on the part of many European citizens towards our common European edifice. Without a doubt, this is the greatest political, economic, social and institutional crisis since the Union was founded. I am, however, convinced that together we can and must reverse this climate of doubt and reduced confidence on the part of EU citizens towards the European Institutions.

As a result of the broader prevailing climate and the need to boost the confidence of European citizens, the Cyprus Presidency has committed itself to work –and will continue to do so until the end of the six months towards a **Better Europe**, a European Union that is closer to its citizens and the world, with emphasis on **social cohesion and the principle of solidarity.**

It is important to pay attention to developments and be the first to tackle any problems that arise. The report of the President of the European Council, as well as the Declaration of the Eurozone Summit last June point to the pressing need both to take measures aimed at promoting development, employment and stability, and ‘to break the vicious circle between banks and public debt’.

The **June European Council** emphasised the fact that member states need to be in a state of readiness and that the current period is making us see with increasing clarity the importance of solidarity, development and social cohesion.

Having in mind the vision of a Better Europe, the Cyprus Presidency is already working towards a Europe which means more to its citizens, and a Europe with a more efficient economy, based on development. The idea of a Better Europe must be the driving force for the future of the Union: a Union which will be more efficient and effective, which will have an enhanced international role, and be closer to its neighbours.

As you might be aware, **the main issues on the agenda of the Cyprus Presidency are the negotiations for the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020, the completion of the Common European Asylum System as well as matters of Economic Governance.** I understand that Deputy Minister for European Affairs, Mr. Andreas Mavroyiannis will brief you in detail about progress to date on the matters handled by the Cyprus Presidency, and I would therefore not wish to pre-empt my friend the Deputy Minister.

Allow me to say just a few words about the major issue of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework for the next programming period, 2014-2020. The Cyprus Presidency has placed high among its priorities **the completion of negotiations for the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework before the end of 2012.** The agenda of work is very intensive and the Presidency is making tireless efforts, always within the framework of the Community Method, to achieve the greatest possible progress in the negotiations, aiming from the outset at excellent cooperation with all member states, as well of course as close cooperation with the other institutional bodies: the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the President of the European Council. We hope that at the extraordinary meeting of the Council on 22 and 23 November, we will be able to reach overall political agreement on the Union’s budget for the next seven years. **My own personal hope and expectation is that we**

will decide upon a budget of solidarity whose primary goals will be development, the reduction of unemployment –especially among the young- and the eradication of conditions of poverty and social exclusion. We need a budget that will contribute to strengthening social convergence and cohesion.

I could claim that it would be only natural that the Multi-Annual Financial Framework will monopolise the interest both of European circles and the media in the coming period, but allow me to underline that the Cyprus Presidency has before it a full agenda of work on a series of other important sectoral policies. We are fully aware of this situation and I wish to stress that the work being carried out in both Brussels and Nicosia is remarkable.

With regard to the aim of making the Union more effective, our Presidency wishes to give the appropriate attention to issues of economic governance, since it is important to strengthen fiscal surveillance and to promote measures, where judged useful, for further fiscal stability. The Presidency is working extremely hard to make sure that we will have tangible results, if possible by the end of the year on the very important issue of the establishment of the Banking Union. Unfortunately, the experience of the current crisis, which is beleaguering us all, has raised issues related to the loose bank surveillance system and the financial system in Europe in general. I would, however, like to underline at this point a political parameter which I consider very important. Any measures that we promote at the European level must be based on the **main political goal of creating conditions for recovery of the economy, which will lead to the much longed-for development and job creation, especially for the young generation which is facing the most serious problem. In this political equation it must not be just the numbers and economic indicators which will be consolidated, but also the prosperity and well-being of the citizens.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to end my address with a message of optimism. Our Union has faced insuperable difficulties in the past and has always emerged stronger than before. It is my conviction that in these, admittedly very challenging times, it is necessary, more than ever before, to remain united: united on the basis of the legacy of the founding fathers of European political unification and economic integration. We have a duty to secure conditions of sustainable development for the future generations of European citizens, for our children. We have a duty to secure and further reinforce the powerful institutional framework within which the 27 –shortly to be 28- member states, live and work. The Cyprus Presidency of the Council is committed to continuing to work tirelessly and in a spirit of consensus in order to secure smooth and effective cooperation among us. I am certain that in this commitment we will have you at our side so that all together we can build a Better Europe, which will mean more to its citizens.

Thank you very much.

Anexo 6. Texto de la intervención del Sr. Mavroyiannis, Vice ministro de Asuntos Europeos de Chipre.

48TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES FOR UNION AFFAIRS OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (COSAC)

Speech of Deputy Minister for European Affairs

Mr Andreas D. Mavroyiannis

15 October 2012

I am very happy to be here among you at the 48th COSAC meeting, in the framework of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in the second half of 2012.

The upgraded role of the national parliaments in the EU, as this has evolved after the Lisbon Treaty, involves increased inter-parliamentary cooperation which enables the regular exchange of information, best practices, and views on EU matters among the European Affairs Committees. As the Cyprus Presidency, we applaud and encourage this. COSAC has an important role to play as a forum for the exchange of views on EU policy issues.

The Cyprus Presidency supports the enhanced role both of the European Parliament and of national parliaments. We are already in constant dialogue with the EP, and this is bearing fruit with regard to the achievement of the goals of the Cyprus Presidency. We also consider that the regular exchange of views between the national parliaments and the Council is more important than ever before.

The Lisbon Treaty has led to a further 'parliamentarisation' of political developments within the EU and the strengthening of inter-parliamentary dialogue. Cooperation and coordination between national parliamentarians and members of the EP leads to a more effective formulation of the European legislative agenda, in the wake of developments, including the introduction of the European citizens' initiative.

By enhancing the competencies of the EP and the powers of the national parliaments, the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty have contributed to the strengthening of democratic legitimacy of the EU and have led to the statutory participation of national parliaments in the EU decision-making process.

Another very important and topical issue is the enhancement of democratic accountability and political participation, as stated in last June's Report *Towards Economic and Monetary Union*. In the on-going discussions on the completion of EMU, it is important to secure the close participation of both the EP and national parliaments, always in the framework of the Community Method. Indeed, as the Union moves towards more unified economic, fiscal and structural policies, powerful mechanisms are required in order to legitimise the decisions made and to secure the necessary democratic accountability and political participation.

In its discussion paper on the EMU, the EP underlined that national parliaments must retain full responsibility for their national budgets within the limits of the EU fiscal framework. That is why it is important that the country-specific recommendations approved in the framework of the European Semester are being discussed both by the EP and the national parliaments.

Honourable parliamentarians,

Cyprus has undertaken the Presidency at a historically critical period for the future of Europe, resulting from the crisis in the Eurozone which has led many to question the entire European institutional edifice.

It is precisely for this reason and in admittedly difficult circumstances that we are committed until the end of this semester to work towards a Better Europe, a Union closer to its citizens and the world, with emphasis on social cohesion and the principle of solidarity.

Despite the uncertainties linked to the current crisis, one thing is now clearer than ever before: Europe can go forward only if its citizens participate. Europe must move closer and closer to its citizens and the citizens must move closer to Europe; they must make Europe their own, a hospitable space of their own, a space for the expression of the democratic ritual.

Political participation in European affairs is essential at all levels, local, regional, national, and European. At the European level, the most important manifestation of political participation is the election for the European Parliament. We must therefore make sure that the EP election in 2014 will mobilise European participation to an unprecedented extent.

In order to facilitate the achievement of this aim, the EU Council, in cooperation with the European Parliament, is looking into the possibility of moving the EP elections from the scheduled date of 8 June. That date being a holiday in most member states, there might be reduced citizen participation in the elections. It is important to secure all the conditions that will facilitate the greatest possible participation, and thereby further strengthen the democratic legitimisation of the result.

In addition, in order to strengthen this Europe-wide dialogue, a suggestion was made which has been adopted by the President of the Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso in his State of the Union speech before the EP last month, regarding presentations to be made by the European political groups of their candidates for the position of President of the Commission in the framework of the EP elections.

It is important at this point to say that with a view to ensuring transparency and in order to make the European political parties, which represent the citizens of Europe, European legal entities, the Cyprus Presidency has taken seriously into consideration the proposal of the Commission which was submitted last month, in connection with the statutes and funding of European political parties and European political foundations, and which aims at reinforcing the promotion, recognition, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the European political parties and foundations linked to them. So far, two meetings have already taken place at the level of the Council working group.

The Cyprus Presidency has tried to set realistic and achievable goals. In early July, at our previous meeting with the COSAC Chairpersons, I presented the goals of the Cyprus Presidency. Today I will attempt to give a short overview of the first months and what we expect to achieve by the end of the year.

The main items on the agenda of the Cyprus Presidency have been dictated by current developments in the EU, including the completion of negotiations for the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the completion of the Common European Asylum System, Economic Governance, Banking Union, the 2013 Budget, and the Single Market Act.

One of the most important goals of the Cyprus Presidency is the **completion of negotiations for the Multiannual Financial Framework** by the end of 2012. The aim is for a budget which will support development, employment, competitiveness, and convergence, in conjunction with the Europe 2020 Strategy, as requested also by the European Council in June. The Cyprus Presidency is working intensively to ensure that this goal is achieved. In September, the Cyprus Presidency issued a revised negotiating framework which has already been discussed at the General Affairs Council, while a new revised negotiating framework will follow by the end of October, in view of the Extraordinary European Council on 22-23 November, possibly with a narrow price range and/or specific figures where possible, and if deemed useful.

In addition, in the week beginning 5 November, the Office of the President of the European Council will hold bilateral meetings with all member states aiming to achieve the greatest possible convergence of views. The goal is to achieve agreement at the Extraordinary European Council on 22-23 November.

Also extremely important for the Cyprus Presidency is **the completion of the Common European Asylum System** by the end of 2012. This will strengthen practical cooperation among member states, based on solidarity and burden sharing, for the protection of the rights of those in need of international protection, with the aim of creating a safe space for all citizens in full accordance with universal values.

We have already achieved agreement with the EP on the Directive laying down standards for the reception of asylum seekers Conditions and the Dublin Regulation on the substantive part of the Regulation (the comitology issues are pending), while we are working at full speed to complete negotiations with the EP on the Directive on procedures for examining applications and for the Eurodac regulation.

With regard to Schengen Governance, thanks to the coordinated efforts and understanding between the President of the EP, Mr Martin Schulz and the constructive position of the Conference of political groups on the one hand, and the Cyprus Presidency and the Council on the other, it was possible to continue the negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council, in the framework of the usual legislative process. More specifically, following a decision by the President's Conference in September, the examination is continuing of the 5 files related to border issues, the work on which had been suspended, and the first trialogue has already taken place on the Schengen Borders Code.

Of crucial importance also are the issues of Economic Governance. More specifically, the Cyprus Presidency gives priority to the work on the **two pack** which is aimed at an enhanced supervision of the economy and the budget of the Eurozone member states, which currently face, or are threat ended by serious difficulties, and closer control and evaluation of the draft budgets. The Cyprus Presidency is continuing the dialogues with the EP, aiming to achieve agreement on these important proposals by the end of 2012, pursuant to the wishes of the European Council.

Another major chapter is the **Banking Union**. The June European Council determined that in order to tackle the current crisis and the need to 'break the vicious circle of the banks and public debt', the further integration of the financial sector is essential. Consequently, there is a need for real economic and monetary union based on four pillars: banking union, economic union and political union on the basis of democratic legitimacy and accountability. The Commission has already announced the package of proposals for the Single Supervisory Mechanism on 12 September.

In the framework of the Cyprus Presidency, the first meetings of the ad hoc working group have already taken place to discuss these proposals.

The aim of the Cyprus Presidency is to adhere to the strict time frame set by the European Council for achieving agreement on the Single Supervisory Mechanism by the end of 2012, as well as securing the quality of the legislation, since these issues are both complex and very important. It is noted that the discussion on the proposals on the Single Supervisory Mechanism is directly linked to the proposals on the Deposit Guarantee Schemes, and the proposal for establishing a framework for the recovery and consolidation of credit institutions and investment firms (Bank Recovery and Resolution) which the Cyprus Presidency is promoting with the aim of achieving agreement. It must of course be noted that there are a

number of challenges to overcome in the effort to achieve these goals. These are the result of the different approaches of the Member States, particularly those outside the Eurozone.

Another important priority is to achieve substantial progress in the legislative proposals contained in the **Single Market Act**. Europe must urgently take steps to improve living conditions and create more jobs. For this reason, the Commission proposed a series of measures aimed at boosting the European economy and creating employment on the 20th anniversary of its establishment. In October 2012, the Commission proposed a second package of actions (Single Market Act II) for the further development of the Single Market and the utilisation of its unused work force as a lever for development.

The target set by the European Council relates to the adoption of the proposals by the end of 2012. One proposal was closed during the Danish Presidency, while in the Cyprus Presidency it is anticipated that 6 legislative proposals of the Single Market Act will be adopted, and for discussions another 5 are expected to continue during the Irish Presidency, either because of the EP time frame or because of the delayed submission of the proposal by the Commission or because of lack of progress in the deliberations owing to the complexity/sensitivity of the issue. In addition, 3 more proposals are connected to and depend on the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Another main priority of the Cyprus Presidency is the achievement of agreement with the EP on the **2013 Budget**. On 24 July, the General Affairs Council approved the position of the Council for the draft EU budget for 2013. The Cyprus Presidency will work towards the timely adoption of the 2013 budget, taking into account the need for balance between fiscal consolidation and the appropriate allocation of funds in policies contributing to development and job creation. The first trialogue has been scheduled for 17 October. In closing, I would like to refer to a recent success in the context of the Cyprus Presidency: the adoption on 8 October of the Limassol Declaration on the EU Integrated Marine Policy. This was an important initiative built on the last Lisbon Declaration, and was embraced by President Barroso and President Christofias. It was approved during the Informal Meeting of Ministers which took place in Cyprus. It relates to an initiative of the Cyprus Presidency and is expected to be a milestone for the future policies and actions of the Union in the marine sector.

I have described to you the main priorities in brief. However, work is continuing intensively in all Working Groups as well as in the Committee of Permanent Representatives in order to complete many other acts of law, while some results are slowly and humbly emerging through the completion of certain sectoral proposals. Our aim is to work intensively to achieve the greatest possible number of results.

I would like to close my intervention with a message of optimism, underlining that a better Europe is possible – a democratic, ecological and social Europe. But this goal cannot be achieved without the common struggle of the peoples of Europe, beyond national boundaries and the narrow limits of the nation state. In other words, our hope for the future is a deep and genuine economic union which will draw legitimacy from its citizens and the organised European society.

The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to the EU has come at the most auspicious moment, at a crucial point in time, filled with shocks to the system, misleading and disorienting statements, doubt and uncertainty, to remind us of the quintessence of the European vision, the basic parameters of the European edifice, as conceived by the fathers and pioneers of the unifying process and integration: a plan for peace, security, prosperity, social cohesion, through unification, osmosis and solidarity. A system of values and ideals, a space of justice, a hospitable place for ideas, entrepreneurship, development, quality of life for people without exclusions, above all for the young. It reminds us precisely of the need to honour the contract of generations, which is an intrinsic part of the European idea, and to deliver to the new generation a better Europe which will always be part of the solution and never the problem, which will mean more to citizens and to the world, which will lead by example and broaden the lines of the horizon and of the capabilities of our anthropocentric society, through its constant osmosis and its open window on the world and global affairs.

Anexo 7. Texto de la intervención del Sr. Sefcovic, Vicepresidente de la Comisión europea y Comisario de Relaciones institucionales y Administración.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ
Vice-President of the European Commission
Responsible for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration
From words to action: making “More Europe” a reality
Meeting of COSAC
Nicosia, Cyprus, 15 October 2012

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure to be here today with so many distinguished parliamentarians. As I have said many times before, I am firm believer in the important role that parliaments – both national and European – must play in the future development and integration of Europe. There are many who believe that European democracy is being tested as never before by the current crisis. A 'buy-in' from parliaments gives democratic legitimacy to the policies we make and the important decisions we take.

We need to make 'more Europe' a reality. But let's be clear – 'more Europe' is not a power grab by Brussels or an attack on national sovereignty. In fact, it's entirely the opposite – it's about the 'Europeanisation' of national politics and a more 'joined-up' approach to tackling what are, after all, the same challenges faced by each and every European.

There's a great quote from the British political writer Sir Ernest Benn which I think sums up how modern European politics is often seen. He said: "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it wrongly, and applying unsuitable remedies." I'm not sure I entirely agree with this point of view!

It's certainly true that we are facing our fair share of trouble at the moment – but it is also true to say that it is by no means everywhere. Let's not forget that Europe remains the world's biggest economic power - the latest statistics from Eurostat [from July] show that we have a healthy trade surplus of €3.1bn with the rest of the world, and Europe accounts for 17% of world trade, more than any other country or bloc [USA is 14%, China 12%, for information]. And we continue to do much better than the rising economic powers: EU 27 GDP (12tn euros) is nearly 50% higher than the combined GDP of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China). And the EU remains an extremely attractive place to do business: in 2011, it attracted \$421bn in foreign direct investment, 28% of the world's total world FDI flows.

Nor do I think that we have wrongly diagnosed the source of our current troubles: it is widely accepted that what started as a financial and economic crisis has also become a social and political one. And I certainly cannot agree that the remedies we have applied are wrong: over the last four years, we have taken hard decisions to tackle the crisis and its root causes – the irresponsibility of the financial sector, unsustainable public debts, and weak competitiveness in some Member States.

Yes, there are still major challenges ahead – deeper reforms at the national level, deeper economic and monetary union at the European level – and achieving them will be no small task. The crisis has stretched European unity almost to breaking point at times, and the solidarity on which the EU is built has often been sorely tested.

Indeed, there are many areas where the European Union is appears far from unified, and tackling this must be our top priority. We need to complete economic and monetary union; in parallel, we need to create a banking union and a fiscal union, and we need to

put in place the necessary institutional and political mechanisms. I believe that 'more Europe' is the only approach which will bring the unity we need. Let me give you a few examples of where I think it is most necessary. I'll start with the issue where there is perhaps right now the least amount of visible unity: the multiannual financial framework (MFF)! The Commission's proposal for the next MFF is targeted to boost growth and jobs across the EU and to give value for money to European citizens, companies and governments. On the need for this, at least, there is perfect unity!

But this is not the case when it comes to agreeing the figures. Many Member States have issues with the budget proposals, given the current climate of austerity and budgetary consolidation many of them are facing. But this is all the more reason to ensure that the EU budget is focused on support for those activities that demonstrate EU added-value and which national budgets cannot or will not support alone.

I think a dose of reality is needed here. The EU budget represents around 1% of GNI and only 2% of Member States' national budgets. Almost every cent of it is invested in the delivery of the EU's policy objectives and the Europe 2020 growth strategy. The European budget is the instrument for investment in Europe and growth in Europe. Every single Member State has endorsed the Europe 2020 strategy as the best way to achieve these goals; now we must all assume our responsibilities towards the people of Europe and put our money where our mouth is! To paraphrase Alain Lamassoure, chair of the European Parliament's budget committee, the EU budget in 2020 cannot be the same as it was in 1990!

The proposed MFF should in fact cost Member States less, if the Commission's proposed new own resources system (the new VAT system and the financial transaction tax) is accepted. And it will without a doubt give a great boost to Member States' economies, their regions, their researchers, their students, their young people looking for work, or their SMEs.

But more than that, let's not forget that without EU [cohesion] funds, we would be a lot worse off. As President Barroso said at the Friends of Cohesion forum in Slovakia recently, "without support coming from cohesion funds, Slovakia and other countries would not be able to meet the targets of the Stability and Growth Pact, will not be able to give their contribution to stability in the Euro area and in the European Union in general".

It needs to be underlined again and again: the proposed budget is a budget for growth, for economic, social and territorial cohesion between Member States and within Member States. It is NOT a budget for Brussels, to line the pockets of 'Eurocrats'; 94% of the money is reinvested back in the Member States, in the people of Europe.

Europe cannot survive if we give with one hand and take away with the other. It will be interesting to see if those Member States who are most vociferous in calling for investment and growth will also be prepared to give Europe the very means to do it. Member States that complain that the budget is too expensive need to look more closely at the reality: for example, Britain's net contribution to the EU is £8-9 billion a year – less than £15 per citizen and five times less than the cost of paying the interest on the country's debt each year! At the same time, the UK has received €10.6bn back in cohesion funding (over the 2007-13 period) for investment in jobs and growth.

This is why it is vital for national parliaments to be a central part of this debate. Even if national leaders can finally agree on an EU budget that is fit-for-purpose, it will all be in vain if they cannot get the support of their parliaments back home. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to continue our exchange of views on this issue with national parliaments, through COSAC and other fora, and to have your full engagement in this particular debate.

Making sure that Europe has the necessary means to invest in its political priorities is vital, of course. But the crisis has also shown that unless we change the way we do things we will simply be throwing good money after bad. We've already taken decisive action to comprehensively overhaul the economic governance of the EU, to ensure that excessive deficits, imbalances and irresponsible budgetary decisions in one Member State can never again poison all the others. But we still need to go further.

As with the MFF question, we are in fact starting from the point where there is total agreement between the Member States. To quote from the Treaty (Art.121, for those of you who don't know your Treaties off by heart), the Member States agree that "their economic policies [are] a matter of common concern and shall coordinate them..."

There is a clear understanding that the economic wellbeing of the entire EU – not just the euro area – is interconnected, and that is why we need a stronger and more binding economic governance framework for economic and monetary union.

Banking union is one of the key pillars on which we can build deeper EMU, and the Commission on the 12 of September adopted legislative proposal for a single supervisory mechanism (SSM) based on the conferral of specific supervisory tasks to the ECB.

We are convinced that moving supervision of banks to the European level, as well as the envisaged further steps towards establishing a fully-fledged banking union, are indispensable measures to ensure the stability of the integrated European economy, to break the negative feedback loop between governments and banks and to help preserve the internal market.

That's why we believe that while the SSM should apply to all euro-area Member States, for which it is essential, it should also be open to the participation of any other Member States that wish to embark on a path of deeper integration.

Establishing a single supervisory mechanism within the single market is an important first step, but we will also need to progress quickly on the remaining building blocks for a genuine EMU. This will include not only the remaining pillars of the banking union but also a fiscal union, economic union and a strengthened democratic dimension of the EMU. The Commission will set out its views on how to progress later this year.

The second element of a deeper economic union is the move towards a fiscal union. We need a stronger and more binding framework for national decision-making for key economic policies, as the only way to manage interdependence and prevent imbalances. Let me remind you that these long-term goals are also accompanied by more immediate actions: the Commission has put forward proposals to tackle the outstanding obstacles in the internal market; we have also presented proposals for a modern industrial policy strategy, which will be followed by an Action plan to contribute to a more entrepreneurial Europe; and before the end of the year, we will launch a Youth package that will establish a youth guarantee scheme and equality framework to facilitate vocational training.

We've also been working hard to fully mobilise the EU structural funds and find other ways to keep up growth-enhancing investments in Europe, such as exploring with the European Investment Bank how to better provide finance to SMEs, as well as developing a new European Venture Capital regime.

But banking, fiscal and economic union is again only part of the picture: for Europe to truly emerge stronger than ever from this crisis we must bite the bullet of further institutional and political integration. As President Barroso put it in his State of the Union speech in Strasbourg last month, we need to move towards a federation of nation states. What exactly does that mean? Well, one definition might, indeed, be 'more Europe' – a deeper integration, cooperation and coordination that recognises and respects the national sovereignties and identities of the Member States.

Of course, this unprecedented level of integration will not happen overnight. Fullyfunctioning European economic governance will only be possible if there is more democratic accountability and transparency. Only the European Parliament and national parliaments – directly elected by the citizens of Europe – can truly bring this level of democratic oversight, which means their role in economic governance will have to be enhanced.

Let me underline that we do not see any need for new institutions as we move towards deeper integration. Indeed, as with the budget, it's more a question of doing more with what we already have by working more effectively – getting greater democratic value for money, if you will. This means extending the community method, improving democratic scrutiny over existing instruments and institutions, and promoting genuine cooperation between the European and national parliaments.

Talk of 'federation' has also raised the spectre of Treaty change – not a pleasant prospect for many people with the protracted negotiations over the Lisbon Treaty still so

fresh in the memory. But we can and must make this process more transparent and easy to understand: we need a thorough Europe-wide debate on what is necessary, why and how to achieve it. The European elections in 2014 should provide the ideal occasion for such a debate. My recent proposals to help develop European political parties and foundations, giving them a legal status (and a much louder voice) in every Member State, will surely make this debate far easier than it has been in the past.

But we are convinced that there are things that can be done to make sure that the European elections have a more European focus, and the presentation by European political parties of their candidate for the post of Commission President is clearly one of them. We hope that this will be the case already for the 2014 elections – and it can be done without Treaty change!

These will be challenging times for Europe. Now, more than ever, we need to talk to each other. The Commission is firmly committed to stepping up political dialogue with national parliaments – as mentioned by President Barroso at the last COSAC meeting in Copenhagen.

I have read your 18th biannual report as well as the draft Contribution with great attention. It addresses the right issues. Further improving dialogue can be achieved in many ways. Firstly, I agree that we must reply more speedily to your opinions, and providing, where justified and possible, more substantial replies. We must visit more national parliaments more often. I think significant progress has already been made, but there is always scope to do better.

At the same time, I believe that we can deepen and enhance the quality of our political dialogue only by clearly focusing on some key priority issues. Economic governance is obviously one of these, and I am pleased to say that we have already seen intensified dialogue between Members or senior officials in the Commission and national Parliaments in particular in relation to the Annual Growth Survey and the Country Specific Recommendations.

When talking about the deepening of the political dialogue, I also need to reiterate the importance of the Commission Work Programme for national Parliaments. Next week the Commission will adopt its Work Programme for 2013. I would like to encourage all of you to use it as a strategic programming tool. The CWP gives you an overview of what we are planning in terms of initiatives and legislative proposals during the coming year, the possibility to prioritise to prepare and to exchange views with the Commission as early as possible in the process.

The challenges we face are daunting, and our responses must be equally tough. Reinvigorating the European economy and building a deeper economic and monetary and ultimately political union must be a collective responsibility. It will fundamentally change the way we work in Europe, and impact the lives of all 500m Europeans. It's clear, then, that we need strong democratic accountability if we are to go down the route towards ever closer union. National parliaments play vital role in bridging the perceived democratic gap between national and European politics. If you, as national parliamentarians, are involved from the earliest stages in the discussions surrounding the European decision-making process, I firmly believe we have a far greater chance of creating the best policies and strategies to bring Europe out of crisis stronger and closer than ever before. I encourage you to take every opportunity to get involved in the debate!

Thank you for your attention.

Anexo 8. Cuadro de enmiendas a las Conclusiones de la XLVIII COSAC.

**Table of Proposed Amendments to the draft Conclusions of the XLVIII COSAC –
Nicosia 14 - 16 October 2012**

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>1. Bi-annual Report</p>		
<p>COSAC welcomes the 18th Bi-annual Report prepared by the COSAC Secretariat and warmly thanks the Secretariat for its excellent work. The Report provides comprehensive and useful information on the relations between the European institutions and national parliaments, on the role of parliaments regarding the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance, and on the parliaments' involvement in examining the proposed EU legislation on Trans-European Energy Infrastructure and the EU Communication on the Single Market Governance.</p>		
<p>2. Subsidiarity and proportionality</p>		
<p>2.1 COSAC notes that almost all national Parliaments take the principle of proportionality into consideration when examining draft legislative acts, even though in many cases it is not considered as a principle of an equal status to the subsidiarity principle under the Lisbon Treaty. Even though national parliaments are divided over the issue whether proportionality is an inextricable component of the subsidiarity principle, the majority of national parliaments are of the opinion that a subsidiarity control is not effective enough if a proportionality check of the proposal at hand is not conducted.</p>		

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>2.2 COSAC takes particular interest in a number of proposals submitted by national Parliaments stressing the need for a more uniform interpretation of what constitutes a breach of the subsidiarity principle and the further clarification of the methodology used to perform subsidiarity checks. Given the different approaches among Parliaments regarding the way subsidiarity criteria are applied in practice, COSAC encourages Parliaments to exchange information regarding their relevant practices, in order to make subsidiarity control more effective, through the better understanding of the processes utilised by each national Parliament. Furthermore, a slight majority of national Parliaments (20-17) are in favour of formally laying down or establishing specific guidelines regarding the scope and content of reasoned opinions.</p>		
<p>3. Political dialogue</p>		
<p>3.1 COSAC recognises the importance of the political dialogue as a confidence building tool among the citizens and the Union and it welcomes the suggestion expressed by national parliaments with regard to its further enhancement. COSAC, therefore, encourages national parliaments to make further efforts towards the strengthening of cooperation in the framework of the political dialogue as documented in the 18th Bi-annual Report.</p>		
<p>3.2 COSAC supports closer cooperation between national Parliaments to discuss proposals that are of particular concern and for which a large number of reasoned opinions were issued, even though the threshold set out under the Lisbon Treaty for reconsideration on the part of the Commission was not met.</p>		
<p>4. The Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union and the role of Parliaments</p>		

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>4.1 COSAC takes note of the provisions of Article 13 of the Treaty on the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic Monetary Union, reiterating the importance of reinforcing interparliamentary cooperation in the field of economic governance.</p>	<p>4.1 COSAC takes note of the provisions of Article 13 of the Treaty on the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic Monetary Union, reiterating the importance of reinforcing interparliamentary cooperation in the field of economic governance <u>and stresses that it applies to all parliaments of EU.</u></p> <p>Furthermore, a general suggestion is made that all references to national parliaments are made with a capital letter (P) i.e. [national Pparliaments].</p> <p>(Polish Sejm)</p> <p>4.1 COSAC takes note of the provisions of Article 13 of the Treaty on the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic Monetary Union, reiterating the importance of reinforcing interparliamentary cooperation <u>between the European Parliament and national Parliaments</u> in the field of economic governance.</p> <p>(European Parliament)</p>	
<p>4.2. COSAC has initiated a dialogue and exchanged views on the way that this cooperation could be optimized, examining the form that this reinforced cooperation should take. It, therefore, expressed the view that this dialogue should be continued in the future.</p>		

Anexo 9. Cuadro de enmiendas a la Contribución de la XLVIII COSAC.

**Table of Proposed Amendments to the draft Contribution of the XLVIII COSAC –
Nicosia 14 - 16 October 2012**

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>1. From words to action: Making More Europe a reality.</p>		
<p>1.1. COSAC acknowledges the need to complement and strengthen the existing economic and monetary union and supports the reinforcement of the EMU architecture that will secure the prevention, management and resolution of crises.</p>		
<p>1.2. In view of the current developments within the European Union, COSAC appreciates that the deepening of the EMU will mark a new stage in the process of the European integration. The proposals of the European Commission for a single European Supervisory Mechanism, which form a concrete basis for the creation of a banking union, constitute a step in the right direction towards tackling the challenges facing the Eurozone.</p>	<p>Delete the current paragraph and renumber paragraph 1.3 to 1.2 (Polish Sejm)</p>	
<p>1.3. COSAC believes that the reinforcement of the EMU architecture, through a fiscal and banking union should be in line with the principles of democratic legitimacy and accountability. COSAC underlines the crucial role that the European Parliament as well as the national parliaments should play in this respect.</p>	<p>Renumber current paragraph to 1.2 (Polish Sejm)</p>	
<p>2. Energy</p>		

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>2.1. COSAC recognises the efforts of the European Union to ensure a continuous supply of energy at competitive prices for the optimal functioning of the European economy as well as the welfare of its citizens, pursued in a manner that supports the attainment of the Union's long term sustainability objectives.</p>		
<p>2.2. The completion of the Union's internal energy market through the extension and modernization of its energy infrastructure will enable the speedy and effective transport of electricity, gas and other forms of energy across Europe, thereby securing a continuous and competitive energy supply for Europe's citizens and allowing all EU Member States to reap the benefits of the internal energy market. COSAC therefore welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a regulation on the Trans-European Energy Infrastructures, aimed at laying the foundations for the attainment of the goals set out in Europe 2020 and the Union's long term sustainability objectives.</p>		
<p>2.3. COSAC notes that all national Parliaments that scrutinised the above mentioned proposal were in favour (17) or partly in favour (8) of its objectives. However, a number of national Parliaments have expressed selective concerns over various aspects of the above proposal, as documented in the 18th Biannual Report of COSAC. The overview of the parliamentary scrutiny of the above mentioned proposal, as documented in the said report, indicates that in the early stage of the legislative process at the European level, particular concerns as expressed by national Parliaments may vary widely.</p>		

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>2.4 COSAC, therefore, calls upon the Council and the European Parliament to take the considerations expressed by national Parliaments into account and to bring the said proposal to a successful conclusion as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the timely modernisation of Europe's energy infrastructures.</p>		
<p>3. Single Market Governance</p>		
<p>3.1 COSAC acknowledges the importance of the Single Market as a vehicle for the promotion of European integration as well as the driving force behind sustainable economic growth and the creation of more positions of employment for the citizens of Europe. COSAC, however, believes that the full potential of the Single Market has not yet been realised, largely owing to problems in the implementation and enforcement of the Single Market rules.</p>		
<p>3.2 COSAC welcomes the European Commission's Communication on Better Governance for the Single Market, aiming, on the one hand, at identifying key areas with potential for growth and taking action to rapidly promote such growth, and on the other, at proposing measures to improve the way in which Single Market rules are designed, implemented, applied and enforced.</p>		

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>3.3 COSAC calls on the European Commission to work closely with national Parliaments in order to attain the objectives set out in the said Communication, and to engage in a fruitful debate as to how the Single Market can be further improved for the benefit of Europe’s citizens and businesses.</p>	<p>3.3 COSAC calls on the European Commission to work closely with <u>the European Parliament and</u> national Parliaments in order to attain the objectives set out in the said Communication, and to engage in a fruitful debate as to how the Single Market can be further improved for the benefit of Europe’s citizens and businesses. (European Parliament)</p>	
<p>3.4 COSAC welcomes the European Commission’s commitment to draft a first report on the integration of the single market and the implementation of the objectives of the Communication on Better Governance for the Single Market as part of its Annual Growth Survey in 2013, as a useful tool in recording the progress made.</p>	<p>3.4 COSAC welcomes the European Commission’s commitment to draft a first report on the integration of the single market and the implementation of the objectives of the Communication on Better Governance for the Single Market as part of its Annual Growth Survey in 2013, as a useful tool in recording the progress made. <u>COSAC calls for further measures to verify the implementation of the Single Market rules on a regular basis comparable to the European Semester exercise and acknowledges the importance of a Single Market test in order to assess the impact of existing legislation on the Single Market.</u> (European Parliament)</p>	
<p>4. Europe 2020 Strategy – Recovery from the Economic Crisis</p>		

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>4.1 COSAC reaffirms the need for collective effort in order to effectively tackle the economic crisis and lead the Union to economic recovery and sustainable growth. COSAC therefore underlines the crucial role of the Europe 2020 Strategy in achieving these objectives.</p>		
<p>4.2 COSAC acknowledges the efforts of the European Commission to promote appropriate measures in support of growth, employment and better economic governance in line with the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Furthermore, COSAC underlines the need that these objectives are met by Member States.</p>		
<p>4.3 The ongoing economic crisis makes it clear that national targets must be set in areas where progress needs to be made, in order to better track performance in each sector and take rectifying action where appropriate. In this respect, COSAC encourages national Parliaments to increase efforts to monitor the effective implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular through the scrutiny of their national reform programmes.</p>	<p>4.3 The ongoing economic crisis makes it clear that national targets must be set in areas where progress needs to be made, in order to better track performance in each sector and take rectifying action where appropriate. In this respect, COSAC encourages national Parliaments to increase efforts to monitor <u>progress in meeting the Europe 2020 strategy goals and in particular through the scrutiny of implementation of Country-Specific Recommendations addressed to the Member States in the framework of the European Semester and their national reform programmes.</u></p> <p>(Polish Sejm)</p>	

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>5. Political dialogue</p>	<p><u>5. Relations between the European institutions and national Parliaments</u> (Swedish Riksdag)</p>	
<p>5.1 COSAC recognises the importance of the political dialogue as a tool that reinforces the cooperation between the European institutions and national Parliaments. Although COSAC acknowledges that significant progress has been made to date regarding the political dialogue, it believes that this dialogue can be further enhanced.</p>		
<p>5.2 In this respect, COSAC welcomes the Commission's firm commitment to further strengthening the political dialogue with national Parliaments in its reply to the Contribution of the XLVII COSAC.</p>		
<p>5.3 COSAC calls on the European Commission to further enhance its cooperation with national Parliaments by sending more substantive responses and in a more timely manner, as requested by a number of Parliaments. COSAC welcomes the suggestion that the annual reports of the European Commission on the relations with national Parliaments could reflect with more clarity the influence that the opinions or other input by national Parliaments have had on the final text of the proposal concerned. Furthermore it calls for intensified cooperation on proposals on which a significant number of Reasoned Opinions have been issued.</p>		

Draft of the Cyprus Presidency	Amendment	Explanation
<p>5.4 COSAC recognises the value of frequent contact between national Parliaments and the Commission on specific proposals and thanks the Commission for its efforts in this regard. It calls on the Commission to further enhance the political dialogue by paying more visits to national Parliaments and taking a tailored approach to the needs of each Parliament/Chamber.</p>		
<p>5.5 COSAC appreciates the value of discussions with Commissioners within its meetings and calls on the Commission to continue its efforts to prioritise attending meetings of COSAC to build on the fruitful discussions to date.</p>	<p>5.5 COSAC appreciates the value of <u>interparliamentary dialogue and of</u> discussions with Commissioners within its meetings and calls on the Commission to continue its efforts to prioritise attending meetings of COSAC to build on the fruitful discussions to date.</p> <p>(European Parliament)</p>	
	<p><u>5.6. COSAC emphasises the need for the Commission to take into account the implications of Reasoned Opinions in its future work.</u></p> <p>(Swedish Riksdag)</p>	

Anexo 10. Texto final de la Contribución de la XLVIII COSAC.



CONTRIBUTION OF THE XLVIII COSAC

Nicosia, 14-16 October 2012

1. Nobel Peace Prize

COSAC welcomes the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union as recognition of its substantial contribution to the advancement of peace, reconciliation, democracy, human rights and solidarity. COSAC believes that this award constitutes both an immense honour for the European family but at the same time a challenge for the European Union to maintain and to further advance the values of democracy, peace and human rights worldwide.

2. From words to action: Making More Europe a reality.

2.1. COSAC acknowledges the need to complement and strengthen the existing economic and monetary union and supports the reinforcement of the EMU architecture that will secure the prevention, management and resolution of crises.

2.2. In view of the current developments within the European Union, COSAC appreciates that the deepening of the EMU will mark a new stage in the process of the European integration.

2.3. COSAC believes that the reinforcement of the EMU architecture, through a fiscal and banking union should be in line with the principles of democratic legitimacy and accountability. COSAC underlines the crucial role that the European Parliament as well as the national parliaments should play in this respect. COSAC recommends that the European

Parliament and the national Parliaments be fully consulted on and involved in the future architecture of the EMU in order to strengthen democratic legitimacy and accountability.

3. Energy

3.1. COSAC recognises the efforts of the European Union to ensure a continuous supply of energy at competitive prices for the optimal functioning of the European economy as well as the welfare of its citizens, pursued in a manner that supports the attainment of the Union's long term sustainability objectives.

3.2. The completion of the Union's internal energy market through the extension and modernization of its energy infrastructure will enable the speedy and effective transport of electricity, gas and other forms of energy across Europe, thereby securing a continuous and competitive energy supply for Europe's citizens and allowing all EU Member States to reap the benefits of the internal energy market. COSAC therefore welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a regulation on the Trans-European Energy Infrastructures, aimed at laying the foundations for the attainment of the goals set out in Europe 2020 and the Union's long term sustainability objectives.

3.3. COSAC notes that all national Parliaments that scrutinised the above mentioned proposal were in favour (17) or partly in favour (8) of its objectives. However, a number of national Parliaments have expressed selective concerns over various aspects of the above proposal, as documented in the 18th Biannual Report of COSAC. The overview of the parliamentary scrutiny of the above mentioned proposal, as documented in the said report, indicates that in the early stage of the legislative process at the European level, particular concerns as expressed by national Parliaments may vary widely.

3.4 COSAC, therefore, calls upon the Council and the European Parliament to take the considerations expressed by national Parliaments into account and to bring the said proposal to a successful conclusion as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the timely modernisation of Europe's energy infrastructures.

4. Single Market Governance

4.1 COSAC acknowledges the importance of the Single Market as a vehicle for the promotion of European integration as well as the driving force behind sustainable economic growth and the creation of more positions of employment for the citizens of Europe. COSAC, however, believes that the full potential of the Single Market has not yet

been realised, largely owing to problems in the implementation and enforcement of the Single Market rules.

4.2 COSAC welcomes the European Commission's Communication on Better Governance for the Single Market, aiming, on the one hand, at identifying key areas with potential for growth and taking action to rapidly promote such growth, and on the other, at proposing measures to improve the way in which Single Market rules are designed, implemented, applied and enforced.

4.3 COSAC calls on the European Commission to work closely with the European Parliament and national Parliaments in order to attain the objectives set out in the said Communication, and to engage in a fruitful debate as to how the Single Market can be further improved for the benefit of Europe's citizens and businesses.

4.4 COSAC welcomes the European Commission's commitment to draft a first report on the integration of the single market and the implementation of the objectives of the Communication on Better Governance for the Single Market as part of its Annual Growth Survey in 2013, as a useful tool in recording the progress made. COSAC calls for further measures to verify the implementation of the Single Market rules on a regular basis comparable to the European Semester exercise and acknowledges the importance of a Single Market test in order to assess the impact of existing legislation on the Single Market.

5. Europe 2020 Strategy – Recovery from the Economic Crisis

5.1 COSAC reaffirms the need for collective effort in order to effectively tackle the economic and social crisis and lead the Union to economic recovery and sustainable and inclusive growth. COSAC therefore underlines the crucial role of the Europe 2020 Strategy in achieving these objectives.

5.2 COSAC acknowledges the efforts of the European Commission to promote appropriate measures and means in support of growth, employment and better economic governance in line with the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and in full respect of the solidarity principle. Furthermore, COSAC underlines the need that these objectives are met by Member States.

5.3 The ongoing economic crisis makes it clear that national targets must be set in areas where progress needs to be made, in order to better track performance in each sector

and take rectifying action where appropriate. In this respect, COSAC encourages national Parliaments to increase efforts to monitor progress in meeting the Europe 2020 strategy goals and in particular through the scrutiny of implementation of Country-Specific Recommendations addressed to the Member States in the framework of the European Semester and their national reform programmes.

6. Political dialogue

6.1 COSAC recognises the importance of the political dialogue as a tool that reinforces the cooperation between the European institutions and national Parliaments. Although COSAC acknowledges that significant progress has been made to date regarding the political dialogue, it believes that this dialogue can be further enhanced.

6.2 In this respect, COSAC welcomes the Commission's firm commitment to further strengthening the political dialogue with national Parliaments in its reply to the Contribution of the XLVII COSAC.

6.3 COSAC calls on the European Commission to further enhance its cooperation with national Parliaments by sending more substantive responses and in a more timely manner, as requested by a number of Parliaments. COSAC welcomes the suggestion that the annual reports of the European Commission on the relations with national Parliaments could reflect with more clarity the influence that the opinions or other input by national Parliaments have had on the final text of the proposal concerned. Furthermore it calls for intensified cooperation on proposals on which a significant number of Reasoned Opinions have been issued.

6.4 COSAC notes that for the first time since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, a sufficient number of national Parliaments or chambers submitted a Reasoned Opinion in order to trigger the "yellow card" mechanism on the proposal for a Regulation on the exercise of the right to take collective action within the context of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services. COSAC acknowledges that the European Commission has now withdrawn the proposal. COSAC calls upon the European Commission to provide individual responses to the Reasoned Opinions submitted and reasoning for why it considers that the principle of subsidiarity has not been breached.

6.5 COSAC recognises the value of frequent contact between national Parliaments and the Commission on specific proposals and thanks the Commission for its efforts in this regard. It calls on the Commission to further enhance the political dialogue by paying

more visits to national Parliaments and taking a tailored approach to the needs of each Parliament/Chamber.

6.6 COSAC appreciates the value of interparliamentary dialogue and of discussions with Commissioners within its meetings and calls on the Commission to continue its efforts to prioritise attending meetings of COSAC to build on the fruitful discussions to date.

Anexo 11. Texto final de las Conclusiones de la XLVIII COSAC.



CONCLUSIONS OF THE XLVIII COSAC

Nicosia, 14 – 16 October 2012

1. Bi-annual Report

COSAC welcomes the 18th Bi-annual Report prepared by the COSAC Secretariat and warmly thanks the Secretariat for its excellent work. The Report provides comprehensive and useful information on the relations between the European institutions and national Parliaments, on the role of parliaments regarding the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance, and on the parliaments' involvement in examining the proposed EU legislation on Trans-European Energy Infrastructure and the EU Communication on the Single Market Governance.

2. Subsidiarity and proportionality

2.1 COSAC notes that almost all national Parliaments take the principle of proportionality into consideration when examining draft legislative acts, even though in many cases it is not considered as a principle of an equal status to the subsidiarity principle under the Lisbon Treaty. Even though national parliaments are divided over the issue whether proportionality is an inextricable component of the subsidiarity principle, the majority of national Parliaments are of the opinion that a subsidiarity control is not effective enough if a proportionality check of the proposal at hand is not conducted.

2.2 COSAC takes particular interest in a number of proposals submitted by national Parliaments stressing the need for a more uniform interpretation of what constitutes a breach of the subsidiarity principle and the further clarification of the methodology used to perform subsidiarity checks. Given the different approaches among Parliaments regarding

the way subsidiarity criteria are applied in practice, COSAC encourages Parliaments to exchange information regarding their relevant practices, in order to make subsidiarity control more effective, through the better understanding of the processes utilised by each national Parliament. Furthermore, a slight majority of national Parliaments (20-17) are in favour of formally laying down or establishing specific guidelines regarding the scope and content of reasoned opinions.

3. Political dialogue

3.1 COSAC recognises the importance of the political dialogue as a confidence building tool among the citizens and the Union and it welcomes the suggestion expressed by national Parliaments with regard to its further enhancement. COSAC, therefore, encourages national Parliaments to make further efforts towards the strengthening of cooperation in the framework of the political dialogue as documented in the 18th Bi-annual Report.

3.2 COSAC supports closer cooperation between national Parliaments to discuss proposals that are of particular concern and for which a large number of reasoned opinions were issued, even though the threshold set out under the Lisbon Treaty for reconsideration on the part of the Commission was not met.

4. The Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union and the role of Parliaments

4.1 COSAC takes note of the provisions of Article 13 of the Treaty on the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic Monetary Union, reiterating the importance of reinforcing interparliamentary cooperation between the European Parliament and national Parliaments in the field of economic governance and stresses that it applies to all parliaments of the EU.

4.2. COSAC has initiated a dialogue and exchanged views on the way that this cooperation could be optimized, examining the form that this reinforced cooperation should take. It, therefore, expressed the view that this dialogue should be continued in the future.