



CORTES GENERALES

INFORME DE LA REUNIÓN DE PRESIDENTES DE LA COSAC CELEBRADA EN COPENHAGUE LOS DÍAS 29 Y 30 DE ENERO DE 2012

La reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC organizada por la Presidencia danesa del Consejo de la Unión Europea se celebró en Copenhague del 29 al 30 de enero de 2012. En dichas fechas, y tras la constitución de las Cortes Generales el 13 de diciembre de 2011, la Comisión Mixta para la Unión Europea aún no había sido constituida, por lo que las Cortes Generales no contaron con representación parlamentaria en esta reunión. Asistió la Ilma. Sra. Carmen Sánchez-Abarca Gornals, Letrada representante permanente de las Cortes Generales ante la Unión Europea.

La lista de participantes y el programa de la Reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC se adjuntan como anexos 1 y 2 respectivamente.

El domingo 29 de enero de 2012 tuvo lugar una prueba de coches eléctricos presentados por el **Sr. AGASSI**, fundador de Better Place, seguida de una cena en el restaurante del club de tiro Solyst, ofrecida por el Parlamento danés. Ambos eventos fueron precedidos por la reunión de la Troika Presidencial de la COSAC, compuesta en la actualidad por los Parlamentos polaco, danés y chipriota, junto con el Parlamento Europeo.

Al día siguiente, la reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC dio comienzo con unas palabras de bienvenida del **Sr. LYKKETOFT**, Presidente de la Cámara danesa, y de la **Sra. KJER HANSEN**, Presidenta de la Comisión de Asuntos Europeos del Parlamento danés, quien presidió la reunión.

Tras la adopción del orden del día de la reunión de Presidentes una vez iniciada ésta, los Presidentes de la COSAC aprobaron por asentimiento el orden del día de la XLVII reunión plenaria de la COSAC, que se celebrará en Copenhague del 22 al 24 de abril 2012. Se mantiene el borrador propuesto por la Presidencia danesa, al que se añade una intervención adicional del Parlamento Europeo.

A continuación, La **Sra. KJER HANSEN** expuso las líneas directrices del 17 informe semestral de la COSAC, cuya primera parte se centrará en el acceso de los Parlamentos nacionales a los documentos emanados de las instituciones europeas, mientras que la segunda parte tratará sobre el papel de los Parlamentos nacionales en el proceso de reforzamiento del mercado interior. El **Sr. MAHOUX** (Senado belga) lamentó que esta segunda parte del informe se centre únicamente en la dimensión económica del mercado interior, dejando de lado sus dimensiones social y



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medioambiental. La **Sra. THORS** (Parlamento finlandés) cuestionó la utilidad de los informes semestrales de la COSAC, que suponen una carga de trabajo tanto para cada Parlamento como para el Secretariado de la COSAC. La **Sra. KJER HANSEN** respondió recordando que la respuesta al cuestionario es voluntaria, y que los informes semestrales pueden servir a los Parlamentos para preparar el debate de la reunión plenaria de la COSAC.

1. Prioridades en materia de política climática y energética para 2020, expuestas por la Sra. HEDEGAARD, Comisaria europea de acción por el clima.

La **Comisaria HEDEGAARD** señaló la necesidad de que el crecimiento económico tenga en cuenta criterios medioambientales, como única vía para afrontar los grandes retos demográficos que se avecinan. Subrayó por ello que la crisis económica debería solucionarse al mismo tiempo que la crisis medioambiental, en la medida en que la eficiencia energética es un factor de competitividad importante. Dada la dependencia energética de la Unión Europea, es necesaria una inversión que permita reducir esta dependencia y al mismo tiempo crear un gran número de empleos directos en el sector energético. En este contexto, el marco financiero plurianual de la Comisión europea ha tenido en cuenta esta necesidad, pese a las dificultades presupuestarias actuales. Así mismo, la **Sra. HEDEGAARD** recordó la importancia de que la Unión Europea se exprese con una única voz en las negociaciones internacionales, y sea capaz de encontrar aliados para lograr sus objetivos.

El **Sr. LEQUILLER** (Asamblea Nacional francesa) y el **Sr. MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ** (Parlamento Europeo, España) felicitaron a la Comisaria por su labor en la Cumbre de cambio climático que se celebró en Durban a finales de 2011. El **Sr. LEQUILLER** subrayó a su vez que los Parlamentos nacionales deberían influenciar a sus Gobiernos para que éstos actúasen con decisión en materia de cambio climático. Junto con el **Sr. SUTOUR** (Senado francés), interrogó a la Comisaria sobre las intenciones de la Comisión europea en materia de imposición sobre las emisiones de carbono. El **Sr. STANKEVICIUS** (Parlamento lituano) insistió en la necesidad de un plan energético a nivel europeo, mientras que la **Sra. ZISSI** (Parlamento griego) señaló la necesidad de cooperación no sólo a nivel europeo, sino internacional, en materia de cambio climático. El **Sr. HÖRCSIK** (Parlamento húngaro) reclamó una mayor solidaridad entre los Estados miembros a todos los niveles; y en esta misma línea, el **Sr. NEOFYTOU** (Parlamento chipriota) propuso introducir en una red europea de energía los 5 trillones de metros cúbicos de gas que han sido recientemente descubiertos en su zona económica exclusiva. El **Sr. WITTBRODT** (Senado polaco), preguntó sobre el futuro de la energía nuclear en Europa.



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La **Comisaria HEDEGAARD** respondió afirmando la necesidad de esperar progresos en las negociaciones internacionales, reservando el instrumento que representan las sanciones para una etapa posterior. En este sentido, hizo referencia a la reciente decisión de China de introducir tasas medioambientales y proyectos piloto en materia de derechos de emisión. La UE, por su parte, debe mantener una posición unida en las negociaciones internacionales, como hizo en la conferencia de Durban. En cuanto a la energía nuclear, la posición de la Unión Europea no ha cambiado tras el accidente de Fukushima, y se continúa considerando a la energía nuclear como un elemento más dentro del mix energético en el futuro. La Comisaria concluyó su intervención afirmando la necesidad de pensar no sólo a corto plazo y en términos económicos, sino también a largo plazo y en términos medioambientales.

2. La crisis de la deuda soberana, la gobernanza económica europea y la responsabilidad democrática. Intervención del Sr. SEFCOVIC, Comisario europeo de Relaciones interinstitucionales y Administración.

La **Sra. KJER HANSEN** abrió el debate de este segundo bloque anunciando que el texto del nuevo Tratado de estabilidad, coordinación y gobernanza en la Unión Económica y Monetaria, acordado en el Consejo europeo de 30 de enero de 2012 prevé la creación de un foro de cooperación interparlamentaria¹. En este contexto, los Parlamentos nacionales deberían establecer un diálogo bilateral con la Comisión europea, que podría conllevar, por ejemplo, que los comisarios comparecieran ante los Parlamentos nacionales y que se pudieran plantear preguntas escritas desde los Parlamentos nacionales a la Comisión. En este último punto, el **Sr. MOTA PINTO** (Parlamento portugués), apoyó a la **Sra. HANSEN**.

El **Sr. SEFCOVIC** expuso a continuación su análisis del control democrático de la acción de la UE en materia de gobernanza económica. El texto de la intervención del comisario se adjunta al presente informe como anexo 3.

¹ **Artículo 13 del Tratado de estabilidad, coordinación y gobernanza en la Unión Económica y Monetaria:** "Según lo previsto en el Título II del Protocolo (nº 1) sobre el papel de los Parlamentos nacionales en la Unión Europea anejo a los Tratados de la Unión Europea, el Parlamento Europeo y los Parlamentos nacionales de las Partes Contratantes determinarán la organización y promoción de una conferencia de representantes de las comisiones competentes de los Parlamentos nacionales y los representantes de las comisiones competentes del Parlamento Europeo con el fin de debatir las políticas presupuestarias y otros asuntos previstos por el presente Tratado."



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El Sr. CASH (Cámara de los Comunes, Reino Unido) subrayó que en materia fiscal, la legitimidad democrática radica en los Parlamentos nacionales. Criticó así mismo los métodos empleados para recurrir a la Comisión y al Tribunal de Justicia de la UE en el marco del proyecto de tratado internacional, y anunció la publicación de un informe al respecto en la Cámara de los Comunes.

El Sr. LEQUILLER (Asamblea Nacional francesa), se mostró satisfecho con la versión final del artículo 13 del tratado, en la medida en que no limita la participación a las Comisiones de presupuestos y permite que intervengan las Comisiones de Asuntos Europeos representadas en la COSAC. El Sr. SUTOUR (Senado francés), sin embargo, consideró la propuesta del tratado como insuficiente, y reclamó por ello una conferencia interparlamentaria tipo COSAC para la zona euro. El Sr. SEFZIG (Senado checo), la Sra. GABRIELLE (Bundestag alemán) y Lord ROPER (Cámara de los Lores, Reino Unido) coincidieron en considerar, por el contrario, que el foro más adecuado para acoger el diálogo previsto en el artículo 13 del tratado es la propia COSAC. El Sr. FARINONE (Cámara de Diputados italiana) por su parte señaló que cada Cámara debe decidir sobre su representación, y que en este sentido la COSAC no sería un foro apropiado para acoger los debates previstos en el citado artículo 13. El Sr. WITTBRODT (Senado polaco) reclamó que las cumbres europeas sean abiertas a todos los Estados miembros, sin restringirse en ninguna ocasión a los Estados pertenecientes a la zona euro.

El Sr. SEFCOVIC consideró positiva la actual redacción del artículo 13 del tratado, y afirmó que la COSAC es un foro apropiado para debatir sobre disciplina presupuestaria. Insistió en que la Comisión europea realizará todos los esfuerzos necesarios para asegurar la incorporación del tratado a la legislación comunitaria.

Una vez finalizado el debate, a las 13 horas y 50 minutos se celebró una comida ofrecida por el Parlamento danés en el restaurante de la propia Cámara, con la que concluyó la reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC en Copenhague.

De Bruselas para Madrid, a 3 de febrero de 2012

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



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ANEXOS

ANEXO 1. Lista de participantes en la Reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC celebrada en Copenhague del 29 al 30 de abril 2012.

ANEXO 2. Programa de la Reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC celebrada en Copenhague del 29 al 30 de abril 2012.

ANEXO 3. Texto de la intervención del Sr. SEFCOVIC, Comisario europeo de Relaciones interinstitucionales y Administración.



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ANEXO 1. Lista de participantes en la Reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC celebrada en Copenhague del 29 al 30 de abril 2012 (lenguas inglesa y francesa).

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List of Participants Liste des participants

COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting Réunion des Présidents de la COSAC

Copenhagen 29-30 January 2012
Copenhague 29-30 Janvier 2012

MEMBER STATES/ETATS MEMBRES

Presidency/Présidence

Denmark/ Danemark

Danish Parliament/Parlement danois/Folketinget

Ms Eva KJER HANSEN, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Mr Benny ENGELBRECHT, Vice Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Ms Pernille DELEURAN, Head of International Division

Mr Mongin FORREST, EU Coordinator

Mr Morten KNUDSEN, Principal EU Adviser



CORTES GENERALES

Mr Thomas FICH, Senior EU Adviser

Ms Iben SCHACKE, EU Adviser

Ms Signe RIIS ANDERSEN, Clerk to the European Affairs Committee

Mr Thomas SARUP, Permanent representative of the Folketing to the EU

Austria/Autriche

National Council/Conseil national/Nationalrat

Mr Fritz NEUGEBAUER, Chairman of the Standing subcommittee on EU Affairs

Ms Katharina STOURZH, Head of the Office of the Chairman

Federal Council/Conseil fédéral/Bundesrat

Mr Stefan SCHENNACH, Deputy Chairman of the EU Committee

Mr Gerhard KOLLER, Head of European Relations Division

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

Belgium/Belgique

House of Representatives/Chambre des représentants/Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers

Mr Herman DE CROO, Member of the Advisory Committee on European Affairs

Mr Carlos DEMEYERE, First Advisor on European Affairs

Senate/Sénat/Senaat

Mr Philippe MAHOUX, Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs

Mr Tim DE BONDT, Advisor

Bulgaria/Bulgarie

National Assembly/Assemblée nationale/Narodno Sabranie

Ms Monika PANAYOTOVA, Chairwoman of the EU Affairs Committee

Mr Vladimir TOSHEV, Deputy Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs

Ms Daniela YAKOVA, Junior Expert to the Committee on EU Affairs

Ms Anna ASENOVA, Permanent representative to the EP



CORTES GENERALES

Cyprus/Chypre

House of Representatives/Chambre des représentants/Vouli ton Antiprosopon

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

Mr Panayiotis POURGOURIDES, Senior International Relations Officer

Ms Hara PARLA, International Relations Officer

Ms Avgousta CHRISTOU, International Relations Officer

Ms Maria AGROTOU, Senior House Stenographer

Ms Christiana FRYDA, Permanent representative of the Cypriot House of Representatives to the EU

Czech Republic/Republique tcheque

Chamber of Deputies/Chambre des députés/Poslanecka Sněmovna

Mr Jan BAUER, Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs

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

Senate/Sénat/Senat

Mr Luděk SEFZIG, Chair of the Committee on EU

Ms Adela SUCHMANOVA, Head of the EU Unit

Estonia/Estonie

Parliament/Parlement/Riigikogu

Mr Taavi RÕIVAS, Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee

Mr Olev AARMA, Head of Secretariat, EU Affairs Committee

Finland/Finlande

Parliament/Parlement/Eduskunta

Ms Astrid THORS, Member of the Grand Committee

Ms Pia NIEMINEN, Permanent representative of the Finnish parliament to the EU

France



CORTES GENERALES

National Assembly/Assemblée nationale

Mr Pierre LEQUILLER, President of the European Affairs Committee
Mr Guy CHAUVIN, Head of Secretariat of the European Affairs Committee

Senate/Sénat

Mr Simon SUTOUR, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
Mr François SICARD, Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on European Affairs
Germany/Allemagne

Federal Diet/Dîte fédérale/Bundestag

Ms Gabriele MOLITOR, Deputy Chairwoman of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
Ms Miriam DENKINGER, Secretary to the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union

Federal Council/Council fédéral/Bundesrat

Mr Rainer ROBRA, Member of the Committee on European Union Questions
Ms Beatrice KLEINERT, Staff of the Bundesrat in the area of parliamentary relations

Greece/Grece

Hellenic Parliament/Parlement hellénique/Vouli ton Ellinon

Ms Rodoula ZISSI, Chair of the European Affairs Committee
Ms Anastasia FRANGOU, Head of the European Affairs Directorate
Mr. Zisi AIKATERINI, personal assistant
Ms Athanasia EMMANOUILIDI, Official

Hungary/Hongrie

National Assembly/Assemblée nationale/Országgyűlés

Mr Richárd HÖRCSIK, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
Ms Zsuzsanna DÓCZY, Advisor to the Committee on EU
Ms Katalin SZALÓKI, Permanent Representative of Hungarian National Assembly
Ireland/Irlande

Parliament/Parlement/ Houses of the Oireachtas



CORTES GENERALES

Mr Dominic HANNIGAN, Chairman

Mr Paschal DONOHOE, Vice Chairman

Mr John HAMILTON, Clerk

Mr Martin GROVES, Policy Clerk

Italy/Italie

Chamber of Deputies/Chambre des députés/Camera dei Deputati

Mr Enrico FARINONE, Vice President of European Union Policy Committee

Mr Antonio ESPOSITO, Official of EU Affairs Department

Senate/Sénat/Senato della Repubblica

Ms Rossana BOLDI, Chairperson of the EU Policies Committee

Mr Giovanni BAIOCCHI, Head of the Office of the European Policies Committee

Mr Davide CAPUANO, Official, Bureau of relations with EU institutions

Ms Paola BORELLI, Interpreter

Mr. Paolo POGGI NESTI, Interpreter

Latvia/Lettonie

Saeima/Diet/Diete

Ms Zanda KALNINA-LUKASEVICA, Chairperson of the EU Affairs Committee

Mr Girts OSTROVSKIS, Adviser to the EU Affairs Committee

Lithuania/Lituanie

Parliament/Parlement/Seimas

Mr Česlovas Vytautas STANKEVIČIUS, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs

Mr Julijus GLEBOVAS, Advisor to the Committee on European Affairs

Luxembourg/Luxembourg

Chamber of Deputies/Chambre des députés

Mr Fernand BODEN, Chairman of the COSAC delegation

Ms Rita BRORS, Secretary of the delegation



CORTES GENERALES

Malta/Malte

House of Representatives/Chambre des représentants/Kamra tad-Deputati

Ms Maria CAMILLERI CALLEJA, Research Analyst

Netherlands/Pays-Bas

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

Mr Harry VAN BOMMEL, Vice chairman of the EU-Affairs Committee
Mr Peter VAN KESSEL, Deputy Clerk to the EU-Affairs Committee

Senate/Sénat/Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal

Ms Tineke STRIK, Chairwoman of the Standing Committee for European Co-operation Organisations
Ms Ilse VAN DEN DRIESSCHE, Official

Poland/Pologne

Sejm/Sejm/Sejm

Ms Agnieszka POMASKA, Chairperson of the EU Affairs Committee
Mr Adam DUDZIC, Deputy Director of the International Affairs Bureau
Ms Joanna HEGER, Official
Ms Magdalena SKRZYŃSKA, Polish Sejm Chancellery Representative to the EU

Senate/Sénat/Senat

Mr Edmund WITTBRODT, Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee
Ms Lidia ŚMIETANKO, Head of the EU Affairs Unit
Ms Magdalena SKULIMOWSKA, Permanent representative of the Polish Senate Chancellery to the EU

Portugal

Assembly of the Republic/Assemblée de la République/Assembleia da República



CORTES GENERALES

Mr Paulo MOTA PINTO, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Mr Bruno DIAS PINHEIRO, Permanent representative of the Portuguese Parliament to the EU

Romania/Roumanie

Chamber of Deputies/Chambre des députés/Camera Deputaților

Mr Derszi AKOS, Vice Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Mr Andrei MOCEAROV, Director, EU Law Directorate

Senate/Sénat/Senatul

Mr Vasile NEDELCU, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Ms Georgiana MANOLE, Coordinator of the European Affairs Committee Secretariat

Slovakia/Slovaquie

National Council/Conseil national/Narodna rada

Mr Ivan ŠTEFANEC, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs

Slovenia/Slovenie

National Assembly/Assemblée nationale/Državni zbor

Mr Jakob PRESEČNIK, Vice chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs

Mr Zvonko BERGANT, Secretary of the Committee on EU Affairs

National Council Conseil national//Državni svet

Mr Vincenc OTONIČAR, Chairman of the Commission for International Relations and European Affairs

Mr Dušan ŠTRUS, Advisor

Ms Neža DULAR, Advisor

Spain/Espagne

Cortes Generales (Congreso de los Diputados and Senado de España)



CORTES GENERALES

Ms Carmen SÁNCHEZ-ABARCA, Permanent Representative

Sweden/Suède

Parliament/Parlement/Riksdagen

Mr Carl B. HAMILTON, Chairman

Ms Marie GRANLUND, Deputy Chair

Ms Margareta HJORTH, Head of Secretariat

Ms Pia TÖRSLEFF HERTZBERG, Deputy Secretary

United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni

House of Commons/Chambre des Communes

Mr William CASH, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee

Mr Alistair DOHERTY, Clerk of the European Scrutiny Committee

House of Lords/Chambre des Lords

Lord John ROPER, Chairman of the Select Committee on the European Union

Mr Duncan SAGAR, Permanent Representative



CORTES GENERALES

European Parliament/Parlement européen

Mr Miguel Ángel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Vice President of the European Parliament
Mr Carlo CASINI, Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee
Ms Christine VERGER, Director, Relations with national Parliaments
Mr Paolo MEUCCI, Administrator, Institutional Cooperation Unit
Mr François NÉMOZ-HERVENS, Administrator, Constitutional Affairs Committee Secretariat
Mr Peter REICHERT, Administrator
Ms Beatrice SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA, Head of Service, EPP Group
Mr Andrea SPINOSO, Assistant
Ms Ilaria LUCE, Interpreter
Ms Maria Rosa MONTEFERRANTE, Interpreter
Ms Emanuela ZANELLI, Interpreter

COSAC Secretariat/Secrétariat de la COSAC

Ms Libby KURIEN, Permanent member of the COSAC Secretariat
Ms Christiana FRYDA, Permanent representative of the Cypriot House of Representatives to the EU
Mr André DE MUNTER, COSAC secretariat member, European Parliament
Ms Magdalena SKULIMOWSKA, Permanent representative of the Polish Senate Chancellery to the EU
Ms Maria GÓRSKA, Polish Sejm Chancellery Representative to the COSAC Secretariat
Ms Magdalena SKRZYŃSKA, Polish Sejm Chancellery Representative to the EU
Mr Thomas SARUP, Permanent representative of the Danish Folketing to the EU
Ms Louise JUUL, Danish Folketing Representative to the COSAC Secretariat



CORTES GENERALES

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES/PAYS CANDIDATS

Iceland/Islande

Parliament/Parlement/Altingi

Árni Thór SIGURDSSON, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Stígur STEFÁNSSON, Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - FYROM/Ancienne République Yougoslave de Macédoine - ARYM

National Assembly/Assemblée nationale/ Sobranie

Mr Hajrula MISINI, Chairman of the Committee of European Affairs

Ms Liljana PETRESKA, Adviser

Mr Asaf ADAMI, Ambassador

Montenegro/Montenegro

Parliament/Parlement/Skupština Crne Gore

Mr Miodrag VUKOVIĆ, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and EU Integration

Mr Vasilije LASLOŠEVIĆ, Vice Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and EU Integration

Mr Andrej ORLANDIĆ, Officer

Turkey/Turquie

Grand National Assembly of Turkey/Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie/Turkiye/Türkiye

Büyük Millet Meclisi

Mr Mehmet TEKELİOĞLU, Chairman of EU Harmonization Committee

Mr Ercan CANDAN, Spokesman of EU Harmonization Committee

Mr Cemil DİNMEZPINAR, Assistant Expert of EU Harmonization Committee

Ms Ipek Gülen GİRGIN, Officer of EU Harmonization Committee

OTHER PARTICIPANTS/AUTRES PARTICIPANTS



CORTES GENERALES

European Commission/Commission européenne

Mr Jens NYMAND-CHRISTENSEN, Director, Relations with the European Parliament, the Committees and General Institutional Issues

Ms Dora CORREIA, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič

Mr Jürgen MÜLLER, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Connie Hedegaard

Ms Joanna DEKA, Official

Council of the European Union/Conseil de l'Union européenne

Mr Olivier SEGNANA, Advisor, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

European Parliament/Parlement européen

Mr Henrik GERNER HANSEN, Acting Head of European Parliament Information Office in Denmark

Speakers/Orateurs

Mr Mogens LYKKETOFT, Speaker of the Danish Parliament

Ms Eva KJER HANSEN, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Ms Connie HEDEGAARD, Commissioner for Climate Action

Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration



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ANEXO 2. Programa de la Reunión de Presidentes de la COSAC celebrada en Copenhague del 29 al 30 de abril 2012 (lengua inglesa).

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**Programme for COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting
29-30 January 2012
Copenhagen, Denmark**

Sunday, 29 January

14.00 Conference registration desk opens at the Strand Hotel

For the participants of the meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC
Venue: Christiansborg Palace, Folketingssalen (Plenary)

15.45 Departure to Christiansborg Palace

16.00 - 17.30 Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC

17.30 Departure from Christiansborg Palace to Better Place Denmark

16.30 Coaches depart from hotel for Better Place Denmark

17.00 Better Place: Test driving of electrical cars and presentation by founder of Better Place, Mr. Shai Agassi

19.00 Coaches depart from Better Place for Restaurant Sølyst, Klampenborg

19.30 Reception at Restaurant Sølyst, Klampenborg
Dinner hosted by the Danish Parliament

22.00 Coaches return to hotel



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Monday, 30 January

Venue: Christiansborg Palace, Folketingssalen (Plenary)

08.30 Coaches depart from hotel for Christiansborg Palace

09.00 Opening

Opening address by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, Speaker of the House

Welcome address by Mrs. Eva Kjer Hansen, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Adoption of the Agenda

COSAC Procedural questions and miscellaneous matters:

- Draft agenda of the XLVII COSAC;
- Outline of the Seventeenth Bi-annual Report;
- Letters received by the Presidency

10.00 Priorities for Climate and Energy policies 2020

Address by Mrs. Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for Climate Action (Confirmed)

Debate

11.30 Family photo

11.35 Coffee break

12.00 The sovereign debt crisis, European Economic Governance and democratic accountability

Address by Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration

Debate

13.45-15.00: Lunch



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ANEXO 3. Texto de la intervención del Sr. SEFCOVIC, Comisario europeo de Relaciones interinstitucionales y Administración (lengua inglesa).

Vice-President of the European Commission Responsible for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration

'Democratic oversight for Europe's evolving economic governance: the role of national parliaments'

Intervention at COSAC chairpersons' meeting²

Copenhagen, 30 January 2012

Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to be with you here today!

Denmark has taken over the EU Presidency at a time of unprecedented concern about the future of the euro, and of the EU itself, and with public faith in our institutions – national and European – at an all-time low.

It is vital therefore that we are seen to act, and to act decisively and effectively, to combat the economic and financial crisis that has ravaged the European economy and affected the jobs and welfare of millions of Europeans.

The Economic and Monetary Union with the euro as the currency of the European Union must be at the heart of this action. As the EU's prime political project and the foundation of economic stability in Europe, it is inconceivable that the single currency will fail. But it is also clear that the financial and economic crisis has revealed a number of systemic shortcomings in the euro governance system that must be addressed urgently to ensure that this nightmare scenario does not occur.

I'm talking about more than simply papering over the cracks; what we need – and what the EU, led by the Commission, has been working towards steadily since the start of the crisis in 2007 – is a governance structure to sustain the EMU and at the same time bolstering its defences against a repeat of the current crisis.

However, of course, we have first to ensure that the EMU – can survive the current crisis, and we have taken rapid and decisive action to ensure that this is the case. Governments committed substantial funds to boost trust in the financial sector and to get money flowing back into the economy.

At EU level, the European Economic Recovery Plan was adopted, helping Member States to better design measures to boost their economies. And the most pressing case – the need to support Greece – was addressed through an emergency loan facility and the creation of the European Financial Stability Facility and the European Financial

² Seul le discours prononcé fait foi.



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Stabilisation Mechanism in order to provide necessary lending to countries that are cut off from financial markets.

Let's be under no illusions – we were on the verge of the biggest meltdown of the financial sector for a generation and the worst depression since the 1930s. But the EU's decisive, collective action is pulling us back from the brink.

There are critics who suggest that our action is mere fire-fighting and has not addressed the fundamental problems at the source of the blaze. It will come as no surprise to you that I cannot agree with this assessment. While we had to tackle the immediate problems, our long-term vision was always clear – a completely new system of economic governance.

The fundamental lesson of the crisis is that of interdependence: now more than ever, we need greater integration to ensure that national economic and budgetary policies cannot again have such a devastating effect on the euro area and the EU as a whole. This is a view shared by the vast majority of Member States, and I am convinced that we need a more collective approach to economic governance that allows each Member State to set its own priorities without destabilising the rest of the EU.

The crisis has made it clear that we needed to act decisively in three key areas: the financial sector, economic growth and public finances.

Addressing the problems of the financial sector was the most urgent, as it was here that the crisis was created, and we have acted decisively to overhaul financial regulation and supervision without constraining the credit markets and jeopardising recovery. The most fundamental change is the creation of a new supervisory structure, comprising three EU authorities with binding powers over the EU's financial sector, and the creation of a European Systemic Risk Board.

As for economic growth, the need here was to ensure both a rapid recovery and sustainable long-term development across the EU. This will be achieved using a combination of measures: the Europe 2020 Strategy will focus on country-specific reforms of fiscal, structural and labour market policies that will allow the EU to maximise its potential on the global stage. The new European Semester will allow the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy to be more closely monitored on a yearly basis, allowing for better coordination of national and EU growth-enhancing measures.

The Commission's Annual Growth Survey - focusing on macro-economic and fiscal policy, structural reforms and growth-enhancing measures - now offers a clear assessment of the EU's economic situation and guidance for further priority actions to be delivered at both EU and national levels. On the basis of this, each Member State draws up a series of reform proposals for achieving the Europe 2020 goals, which inform each country's national budget proposals following assessment by the Commission and adoption by Council. Thus each Member State's budget priorities remain consistent with the EU's overall growth agenda.

The final area where we have taken decisive action is that of public finances, where the Commission put forward the so-called 'six pack' of legislation. The six pack consists of



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five regulations and one directive that together represents the most comprehensive reinforcement of economic governance in the EU since the launch of the Economic and Monetary Union. It is a clear sign of the urgent need for reform in this area that the entire package was agreed very quickly late last year by Parliament and Council, and came into force this year.

The chief role of the "six pack" is to give the EU a much stronger framework for preventing the economic mistakes that have thrown us into such unprecedented turmoil over the last few years.

Let me briefly describe the main innovations.

First, we will be able to scrutinise Member States' public finances, in particular the level of debt and deficit, much more thoroughly than before and, crucially, at a far earlier stage in the budget development process. National budgets will also have to be designed and presented in compliance with minimum international quality standards, so that budget-making is more transparent both for citizens and for policy-makers.

We have learned important lessons by looking at the root causes of the current sovereign debt crisis, and the spotlight will therefore be tightly focused on countries whose budget policies put their own and Europe's stability, growth and employment levels at risk. In particular, a reorientation of the Excessive Deficits Procedure (EDP) will ensure that public debt will be kept under far tighter control in the future.

Second, the "six pack" allows the Commission to examine in much greater depth the macroeconomic situation in each country. We will be paying particular attention to countries where there are early signs of possible macroeconomic imbalances that could undermine competitiveness and threaten economic and financial stability.

So, for example, when we detect symptoms of a property bubble, or weaknesses in the banking sector, or unbalanced patterns of trade and investment, we can act early to help solve the problem at the national level, rather than later when it has become a problem for the whole of Europe.

Third, the new rules also allow the Commission to take action against countries that do not respect their obligations. For euro area countries, the Commission will be able to enforce rules more strongly by proposing financial penalties at an earlier stage than before. These will be imposed automatically unless a majority of euro area Member States reject the Commission's recommendation.

And, finally, all of this will happen in a way that is dramatically more democratic and transparent – a huge step towards greater accountability.

While I am convinced that the "six pack" is the best possible response from Europe to the crisis, it is just the start. Two other proposals from the Commission – a two pack, if you will – are designed to build on the agreement over the "six pack" and further strengthen economic governance in the euro area.



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The first proposal establishes enhanced surveillance of those Member States considered being at the greatest risk with regard to financial stability or receiving precautionary financial assistance, in particular setting out a clear procedure for preparing and adopting macro-economic adjustment programmes and criteria for continued surveillance. The second focuses rather on the monitoring and assessment of draft budgetary plans and correcting excessive deficits in the euro area countries.

This would enable the Council and Commission to examine national draft budgets and take a position before they are adopted by national parliaments. But let me make it perfectly clear: national budgets will continue, quite rightly, to be agreed and adopted by national parliaments; the Commission's role is to ensure that those national parliaments are better informed of the European rules that their budget must follow and what impact their budgetary proposals might have on the rest of the EU.

This leads me nicely to the key issue of democratic oversight over European economic governance. Of course, intergovernmental cooperation and consensus is vital if we are to reform European economic governance.

But with the situation in Member States differing so widely, what kind of consensus can we expect? Will it go far enough to allow us to do what needs to be done? And can we expect it to last in the long term?

I firmly believe that this is not an issue that can or should be left to national governments alone, and which needs to be complemented by more effective dialogue between the Commission and national parliaments - and by implication with the Committees that you represent.

This is all the more important at a time when the 'two pack' proposals are being negotiated, and where it is vital to ensure that the budgetary authority of national Parliaments is fully respected in the new economic governance framework. Again, I want to stress that the economic governance framework leaves the last word in the budgetary procedure to national parliaments – as it should be. But what the Commission would like to see is national parliaments playing a much more active role, alongside the European Parliament, in the continuing debate on how best to enhance Europe's economic governance.

Finally, let me turn briefly to the so-called 'fiscal compact' agreed by the leaders of 26 Member States at the European Summit of 8-9 December 2011. The compact is intended to strengthen fiscal discipline and introduce stricter surveillance in the excessive deficit procedure, to further strengthen economic coordination in the euro area, for example by discussion of plans for major economic policy reforms in advance of their adoption. These decisions are to be enshrined in an international agreement.

The fiscal compact bolsters the Stability and Growth Pact beyond what would have been possible on the basis of the EU treaties. For example, according to the Treaties, the decision to open a so-called Excessive Deficit Procedure or to take the next step in that procedure must be backed by a qualified majority.



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The international agreement makes this process easier – indeed, the support of Member States for the decision is taken as given unless a qualified majority of Member States opposes it. National parliaments will have a role to play, in particular through discussions on how national economic and budgetary policies are run.

Obviously, the Commission regrets that the European Council had to resort to an intergovernmental treaty for the fiscal compact due to the lack of unanimity by all 27 EU Member States, but we broadly welcome the content of the agreement, building as it does on the solid foundation laid by the "six pack" and continuing in the same vein as the "two pack" proposals. We are also encouraged that the role of the EU institutions was recognised in policing the compact, and that the Commission and Parliament are associated with the negotiations.

In practice, many of the measures agreed in the international agreement will be implemented through secondary legislation fully based on the Community method, and I am optimistic that the provisions of the agreement will eventually be incorporated within the overall EU legal framework.

The informal European Council today will be discussing the agreement on the fiscal compact – and I sincerely hope that the text on the table can be agreed as quickly as possible. Because we need to go to another stage in our response to the crisis – and the European Council is doing just that today, by holding a debate on growth and employment.

This is very welcome. Because as I have said, the EU has a plan for growth: the Europe 2020 Strategy, which has all the right elements. We now need to move on with its implementation – to make the EU smart, sustainable and inclusive by 2020. But we are already two years into this strategy and it's only 8 years to 2020.

So Heads of State and Government need to be aware of this reality – and today's informal meeting could be a staging post for the Spring European Council at the start of March, where the European Council will adopt economic guidance for the EU as a whole under our European Semester.

In its Annual Growth Survey the Commission has already set out its views on the policy priorities for the EU as a whole. For today's summit, the Commission President will concentrate on three themes:

- growth-friendly fiscal consolidation, with concrete examples of good and bad practices, and stress the importance of the tax shift from labour to consumption;
- tackling unemployment, and in particular the challenge of youth employment. This could include EU action such as a "Youth on the Move" Pact to combat youth unemployment involving all Member States (that wish to participate) and a particular focus on those Member States with youth unemployment levels significantly above the EU average;
- and finally promoting competitiveness, in particular for SMEs through access to credit and delivering on the fast track pro-growth measures the Commission



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identified in the Annual Growth Survey. This covers in particular measures to complete the Single Market, which would significantly boost growth: implementing the reforms already proposed by the Commission would add around 3% to the GDP level in 2020.

We cannot leave this potential unrealised – just the full implementation of the Services Directive could increase trade in commercial services by 45% and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by around 20%. It can bring 0.5 to 1.5% increase in GDP. It is unacceptable that so many Member States have not yet implemented it. After years of long and difficult negotiations, the European Patent is currently blocked in the Council because three Member States cannot agree on who will host the new patent court – and this would reduce patenting costs by 80% !

So the Commission looks forward to a good, substantive discussion in today's summit on Growth and employment, because this is what our citizens expect us to address. And we owe it to the citizens of Europe to prove to them that we can take the necessary action to find long-term solutions to the current crisis.

Public faith in our institutions – be they European or national – is at an all-time low, and is unlikely to be improved if we appear once again to be putting narrow self-interest above the greater European good. What message do we send to the people of Europe if we let the euro – the core of the European project – collapse simply because we were not mature enough, open enough to find the right solution?

The crisis has shown that we are interdependent. What happens in one Member State has an undoubted impact on the rest of them, for better or for worse, and it is clear that we cannot act alone – either as individual Member States or institutions – in tackling our problems.

We are taking the necessary action to respond to this crisis. But this action will ultimately only be successful if we continue to work together, if we step up the dialogue, if we improve our understanding of each other. We need to understand what is really at stake beyond our own national or institutional boundaries, and this dialogue is essential to ensure the democratic legitimacy of our actions. And only in this way we will be able to ensure not only long-term growth and prosperity for all, but also that Europeans once again trust their institutions.

Thank you very much for listening, and as always, I look forward to the debate.