

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC
Limassol, Cyprus, 8 July 2012

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

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

Ms Eva KJER HANSEN, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee, Danish *Folketinget*, Mr Dominic HANNIGAN, Chairman of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, Irish *Dáil Éireann*, Mr Othmar KARAS, Vice-President and Mr Carlo CASINI, Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee, 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 COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting**
- 3. Debate on the draft programme of the XLVIII COSAC**
- 4. Approval of the outline of the 18th Bi-annual Report**
- 5. Letters addressed to 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 who welcomed the delegations of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (hereinafter referred to as "the Troika"), and in particular its new member, Mr Dominic HANNIGAN, Irish *Dáil Éireann*.

The agenda of the meeting of the Troika was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of the draft programme of the COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting

Mr NEOFYTOU highlighted the two debates that would be held the next day. The first one would focus on the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union and would be presented by Mr Andreas MAVROYIANNIS, Deputy Minister for EU Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus. The second debate would focus on the topic of Energy 2020 Strategy - Security of Supply and would be addressed by the European Commissioner for Energy, Mr Günther OETTINGER.

The draft programme of the meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC was adopted without amendment.

3. Debate on the draft programme of the XLVIII COSAC

Mr NEOFYTOU presented the topics on the draft programme of the XLVIII COSAC to be held on 14-16 October 2012 in Nicosia at the Conference Centre "Filoxenia". The topics to be discussed in the Plenary included: 1. State of Play - Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union to be presented by Mr MAVROYIANNIS, Deputy Minister for EU Affairs; 2. The State of the Union to be addressed by European Commissioner for Inter-institutional Relations and Administration, Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ; 3. Energy - Security of Supply to be addressed by Mr Neoklis SYLIKIOTIS, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; 4. Single Market Governance to be addressed by Mr Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General, DG Internal Market and Services; and 5. Europe 2020 Strategy - Recovery from the Financial Crisis.

Mr NEOFYTOU expressed the hope that both the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the President of the House of Representatives would participate in the meeting noting that these speakers, as stated in the draft programme, were yet to be confirmed.

Mr Othmar KARAS proposed that a speaker from the European Parliament should be invited on point two of the agenda regarding the State of the Union expressing the view that the topic was connected to the issue of the future of Europe, democratic legitimacy and the role of Parliaments. He also proposed Ms Pervenche BERÈS, Chairwoman of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament, as a speaker on point five regarding Europe 2020 Strategy - Recovery from the Financial Crisis.

Mr Carlo CASINI noted the two speakers from the European Parliament invited for the topics of Energy and Recovery from the Financial Crisis and agreed with the additional proposals by Mr KARAS.

Ms Eva KJER HANSEN thanked the Presidency for giving priority to the topic of Single Market Governance. She disagreed on the number of speakers from the European Parliament underlining that Parliaments are represented on an equal basis in the meeting and stressing the need to allow the same amount of time for interventions by and discussion amongst them. She supported inviting one speaker from the European Parliament.

Mr HANNIGAN agreed with Ms KJER HANSEN underlining the time constraints of the meeting warning against any extension of the number of speakers.

Mr NEOFYTOU acknowledged the need to strike a compromise noting the two speakers from the European Parliament, as initially proposed by the Presidency, one on the topic of Energy and one on the topic of Recovery from the Financial Crisis, and warned against an additional speaker. He said that the Presidency would work on the draft programme and return with a compromise proposal.

4. Approval of the outline of the 18th Bi-annual Report

Mr NEOFYTOU briefly presented the outline of the 18th Bi-annual Report and the three chapters proposed. The first chapter would be divided into two sections, in the

first section would focus on the approach regarding the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and the second section would exchange information regarding national Parliaments' practices in the context of the political dialogue with the European Commission. The second chapter would deal with the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance and the role of Parliaments. The third chapter would deal with the topic of energy - trans-European energy infrastructure and the exchange of information and best practices on the issue.

Ms KJER HANSEN suggested adding the topic of Single Market Governance to the Bi-annual Report in view of the recently published Commission Communication on Better Governance for the Single Market.¹ In the absence of objections, it was decided to add the topic of Single Market Governance to the 18th Bi-annual Report of COSAC.

5. Letters addressed to the Presidency

The Presidency, as announced by Mr NEOFYTOU, had not received any letters.

6. Any other business

As there was no other business, Mr NEOFYTOU closed the meeting of the Presidential Troika.

¹ COM (2012) 259