

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC

Dublin, Ireland, 23 June 2013

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

CHAIR: Mr Dominic HANNIGAN T.D. (*Dáil Éireann*, Ireland).

Mr Paschal DONOHOE T.D. (*Dáil Éireann*, Ireland), Mr Averof NEOFYTOU (*Vouli ton Antiprosopon*, Cyprus), Ms Eva KJER HANSEN (*Folketinget*, Denmark), Mr Gediminas KIRKILAS and Mr Petras AUŠTREVČIUS (*Seimas*, Lithuania), 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 XLIX COSAC
3. Presentation of the 19th Bi-annual Report of COSAC
4. Debate on the draft Contribution and Conclusions of the XLIX 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 Dominic HANNIGAN, Chairman of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, Irish *Houses of the Oireachtas*, 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

Mr HANNIGAN gave a brief outline of the plenary agenda. He noted with regret that Jacques Delors and Viviane Reding had cancelled their appearances at the COSAC meeting at short notice. Ms Reding had sent instead a video of her speech and the Chairman asked if the Troika had any objection to this being played during the COSAC meeting. In the absence of any objection, the draft programme of the meeting of the XLIX COSAC was adopted without amendment.

3. Presentation of the 19th Bi-annual Report of COSAC

Mr HANNIGAN invited the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Ms Libby KURIEN, to give a short presentation of the 19th Bi-annual Report of COSAC.

Ms KURIEN presented the report, providing details on its four chapters tackling 1) a genuine Economic and Monetary Union, 2) the European Semester 2013, 3) European Union Enlargement, and 4) Subsidiarity.

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

Mr HANNIGAN said that the Presidency had received a number of amendments some of which had been incorporated into the second draft of the Contribution and Conclusions. Further amendments would be accepted up until lunchtime the following day. He wished to flag the amendment received from the EP which proposed to add an additional paragraph to the Contribution. He said that the amendment undermined the collective spirit of the Contribution and the ability of COSAC to speak with one voice.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ said that the European Parliament could not associate itself with the desiderata for the future role of national Parliaments as included in the draft Contribution. However, instead of producing 15 different amendments contesting their point of view, the European Parliament had chosen to table one amendment to express the European Parliament's view that some parts of the Contribution might go beyond the Treaties. If the amendment was not admissible or was voted down the EP intended to abstain from the vote on the Contribution and wished to see a statement of its views appear in the minutes. Mr NEOFYTOU said that the suggestions of Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ could be accommodated and the Cyprus delegation could accept the European Parliament's proposals. Mr HANNIGAN suggested taking this point away from this meeting and proposing a compromise before the Chairpersons' meeting the following day.

5. Letters received by the Presidency

Mr HANNIGAN informed the members of the Troika about three letters that the Presidency had received:

- A letter from the Dutch *Eerste Kamer* regarding the clash between the dates of the XLIX COSAC and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and asked that this be avoided in future.
- A letter from the Polish *Sejm* requesting the use of more "citizen-friendly" language in the COSAC Contribution.
- A letter from the Czech *Polanecká sněmovna* regarding the meeting of the parliamentary EU Affairs Committees of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary.

6. Any other business

Mr HANNIGAN announced that letters of intent for the co-financing agreement for the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat had been received from 22 Parliaments. The next day he would ask for the remaining letters to be sent as soon as possible. The term of the current Permanent Member would expire at the end of 2012 and she would not be seeking re-appointment. The next Permanent Member would be appointed at the L COSAC in Vilnius. Mr HANNIGAN thanked Ms KURIEN and wished her well in the future.

Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ noted that the Secretariat was hosted in the EP premises. He asked for further details of the timescale for the appointment of the new Permanent Member, saying that it was important to have transparency throughout the process. He was informed that the Lithuanian Presidency would call for candidates at the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting in Vilnius in July and would ask for nominations by mid-September, leaving time to set out procedures for the appointment before the L COSAC in October.