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Parliamentary Dimension  
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union

## Plenary Meeting of the LIX COSAC

17 – 19 June 2018, Sofia

### DRAFT PROGRAMME (as of 03.05.2018)

#### Sunday, 17 June 2018

14:00 - 19:00 Arrival of the delegations and registration for the meeting at the hotels

16:30	Departure by bus from the hotels for the Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC
17:00 – 18:30	Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC <i>Venue: National Assembly, "Zapad" Hall, 2 Narodno Sabranie sq. 1169 Sofia, Bulgaria</i>

18:30 – 19:30 Cultural programme

19:30 Departure for dinner

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19:30 Departure from the hotels for dinner

20:00 – 20:30 Tour of the National History Museum

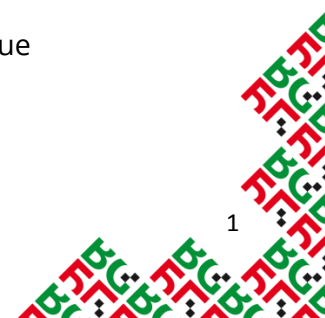
20:30 – 22:30 Official dinner hosted by **Mr Kristian VIGENIN**,  
*Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the  
European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*  
*Venue: **National History Museum**,  
16 Vitoshko Lale Str., 1618 Sofia, Bulgaria*

22:30 Return to the hotels by bus

#### Monday, 18 June 2018

7:30 Departure by bus from the hotels to the conference venue

8:00 – 9:00 **Meetings of the political groups**  
*Venue: **National Palace of Culture**, 1 "Bulgaria" sq., Sofia*





**Monday, 18 June 2018**

**8:30** Departure by bus from the hotels to the conference venue  
*Venue: National Palace of Culture, Hall 3,  
1 "Bulgaria" sq., Sofia*

**9:00 – 9:10** **Opening address** by **Ms Tsveta KARAYANCHEVA**,  
*President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

**9:10 – 9:30** **Welcome address** by **Mr Rumen RADEV**,  
*President of the Republic of Bulgaria*

**Welcome address** by **Ms Mairead McGUINNESS**,  
*Vice-President of the European Parliament*

**Introductory remarks** by **Mr Kristian VIGENIN**,  
*Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the  
European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

**9:30 – 10:00**

**Adoption of the agenda for the  
Plenary Meeting of the LIX COSAC**

**Procedural issues and miscellaneous matters**

- Briefing on the results of the COSAC Presidential Troika meeting
- Presentation of the COSAC 29th Bi-Annual Report
- Letters received by the Presidency
- Others

**10:00 – 11:00** **Session I: Achievements of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council  
of the EU**

**Keynote speaker: Mr Boyko BORISSOV (tbc)**,  
*Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria*

**Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ingrid SHIKOVA (tbc)**,  
*Lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"*

**Chair of the Session: Ms Ivelina VASSILEVA**,  
*Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of  
the European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*



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Debate

**11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break**

**11:30 – 13:00 Session II: Integration and connectivity of the Western Balkans – a new impetus to EU enlargement policy**

**Keynote speakers:**

**Mr Christian DANIELSSON (tbc),**

*Director-General of the Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission*

**Mr Nikola DIMITROV,**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

**Mr Knut FLECKENSTEIN (tbc),**

*Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur for Albania*

**Moderator: Amb. Biserka BENISHEVA,**

*Director for EU Affairs at PanEuropa Bulgaria*

**Chair of the Session: Ms Imren MEHMEDOVA,**

*Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Debate

**13:00 – 13:15 Family photo**

**13:15 – 14:30 Lunch break**

**14:30 – 16:00 Session III: European Pillar of Social Rights - building a more inclusive and fairer Europe**

**Keynote speakers:**

**Mr Luca JAHIER,**

*Designated President of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC),  
President of the Various Interests' Group, EESC*



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**Dr. Ľuboš BLAHA,**

*Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic*

**Ms Maria João RODRIGUES (tbc),**

*Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL),  
Rapporteur for the European Pillar of Social Rights, European Parliament*

**Moderator: Prof. Dr. Katia VLADIMIROVA,**

*Lecturer at University of National and World Economy and  
New Bulgarian University*

**Chair of the Session: Ms Polina TSANKOVA-HRISTOVA,**

*Member of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the  
European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Debate

16:00 Return to the hotels by bus

16:30 – 18:00 **COSAC Chairpersons' meeting**  
**Debate on the draft Contribution and draft Conclusions of the LIX**  
**COSAC**

18:00 Return to the hotels by bus

19:30 Departure from the hotels for dinner

20:00 - 22:30 **Official dinner** hosted by **Ms Tsveta KARAYANCHEVA,**  
*President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

22:30 Return to the hotels by bus



Tuesday, 19 June 2018

08:30 Departure from the hotels to the conference venue

9:00 – 10:45 **Session IV: A strong and effective Cohesion Policy post 2020**

**Keynote speakers:**

**Mr Tomislav DONCHEV,**

*Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria*

**Mr Michael SCHNEIDER,**

*The President of the Subsidiarity Steering Group*

*Committee of the Regions' rapporteur on "The future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020"*

**Ms Diana Spinant,**

*Director for Budget, Communication and General Affairs,*

*DG REGIO, European Commission*

**Ms Isabelle THOMAS (tbc),**

*Member of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) of the European Parliament*

**Moderator: Ms Milena MILOTINOVA,**

*Journalist, TV host , "Bulgaria ON AIR"*

*Former Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

**Chair of the Session: Mr Petar PETROV,**

*Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Debate

10:45 – 11:30 **Coffee break**



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**11:30 – 13:00**    **Session V: EU Interparliamentary cooperation in the context of the debate on subsidiarity and proportionality**

**Keynote speaker:**

**Mr Frans TIMMERMANS,**  
*First Vice President of the European Commission*

**Ms Danuta Maria HÜBNER (tbc),**  
*Chairperson AFCO Committee*

**Mr Bastiaan VAN APELDOORN,**  
*Chair of the Standing Committee on European Affairs, Dutch Senate*

**Ms Bettina VOLLATH (tbc),**  
*President of the Provincial Parliament of Styria  
Republic of Austria*

**Moderator: Mr Kiril Valchev (tbc),**  
*Journalist, Host of “The Week” political broadcast, Darik Radio*

**Chair of the Session: Mr Kristian VIGENIN,**  
*Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the  
European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Debate

**13:00 – 13:30**    **Adoption of the Contribution and Conclusions of LIX COSAC**

**13:30 – 13:35**    Closing remarks by **Mr. Kristian VIGENIN,**  
*Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the  
European Funds, National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria*

**13:35 – 14:30**    **Lunch**

**14:30**            **Return to the hotels by bus**  
Departure of delegations