

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC
Riga, Latvia, 31 May 2015**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

CHAIR: Ms Lolita ČIGĀNE, Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Latvian *Saeima*.

Mr Marc ANGEL, Chair of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration, Luxembourg *Chambre des Députés*, Mr Paolo TANCREDI, Vice Chair of the Committee on European Union Policies, Italian *Camera dei Deputati* and Mr Roberto COCIANCICH, Member of the Committee on European Union Policies, Italian *Senato della Repubblica*; Mr Ramón Luis VALCÁRCEL SISO, Vice-President, European Parliament, and Ms Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, 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 LIII COSAC**
- 3. Presentation of the 23rd Bi-annual Report of COSAC**
- 4. Debate on the draft Contribution of the LIII 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 Ms Lolita ČIGĀNE, Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Latvian *Saeima*, 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 LIII COSAC

Ms ČIGĀNE gave a brief outline of the plenary agenda.

Referring to the lunch session on dealing with the security concerns in the Middle East and North African Region, Mr COCIANCICH stressed the sensitive nature of the topic and that more time needed to be devoted for discussion. Mr TANCREDI expressed the hope that, in the future, more time would be devoted to discussing the situation in the Southern Mediterranean.

In response, Ms ČIGĀNE underlined that a discussion on the Southern Mediterranean had already taken place and that related conclusions had been adopted in the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP) in March. She also stressed that the topic of the EU Passenger

Name Record proposal, following the meeting on 30 March 2015 in Paris had been included in the discussion of the informal morning session the following day.

In the absence of any objection, the draft programme of the meeting of the LIII COSAC was approved without amendment.

3. Presentation of the 23rd Bi-annual Report of COSAC

Ms ČIGĀNE invited the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Ms Christiana FRYDA, to give a short presentation of the 23rd Bi-annual Report of COSAC.

Ms FRYDA briefly presented the report, providing details on its three chapters dealing with EU energy policy - state of play, challenges and opportunities, the future of parliamentary scrutiny of EU affairs and EU trade policy and the role of Parliaments.

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

The Chair said that the Presidency had received amendments to the draft Contribution of the LIII COSAC by the deadline of 22 May 2015 and that a second draft had been circulated on 29 May 2015. The amendments had been included in a table for the delegations and further amendments would be accepted until 12pm the following day.

The Chair submitted a table of amendments to the draft Contribution, which incorporated compromise proposals elaborated by the Presidency. Following a detailed examination of each amendment proposed on each paragraph and of each compromise amendment proposed by the Presidency, the Troika drafted a modified text of the Contribution to be presented to the Chairpersons of COSAC the following day.

5. Letters received by the Presidency

Ms ČIGĀNE informed the members of the Troika about the following letters that the Presidency had received:

- Two letters, one from Ms Teuta SAHATQIJA, Chair of the Committee on European Integration of the Assembly of Kosovo¹ and one from the Georgian Parliament, expressing their interest in participating in the LIII COSAC meeting.
- Two letters from Mr Vaclav HAMPL, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Czech *Senat*, one regarding the conclusions adopted by the representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of the Visegrad group countries at their meeting on 14 April 2015, and one on the resolution of the Czech *Senat* on the "green card".
- A letter from Mr Pietro GRASSO, President of the Italian *Senato della Repubblica* and Ms Laura BOLDRINI, President of the Italian *Camera dei Deputati* regarding the conclusions of the EU Speakers Conference held on 20-21 April 2015.
- A letter from the Chair of the European Affairs Committee German *Bundestag*, Mr Gunther KRICHBAUM, regarding the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on single-member private limited liability companies.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

- A letter from Mr Malik AZMANI, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Dutch *Tweede Kamer*, on the overview of national Parliaments' priorities selected from the European Commission Work Program 2015.

6. Any other business

Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO submitted a draft statement on the recent entry bans imposed by the Russian Federation on EU politicians and civil servants and suggested adoption by COSAC. Ms ČIGĀNE agreed to present it for adoption by COSAC, along with the Contribution, as a statement proposed by the Troika. Following Mr COCIANCICH's proposal, the Troika agreed to add a paragraph expressing solidarity with the persons concerned by the entry bans.