



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF COSAC

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 3 - 4 JULY 2025

Note: The text of keynote interventions which have been shared with the Presidency will be published on IPEX. A video recording of the full meeting is available via the webpage of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Danish Presidency.

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CHAIR: Ms Brigitte KLINTSKOV JERKEL, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish *Folketing*

WELCOME ADDRESS

Welcome address by Mr Lars-Christian BRASK, Deputy Speaker of the Danish *Folketing*

In his welcome address Mr BRASK welcomed the chairs of the European Affairs Committees gathered at the Danish *Folketing*. He presented the seven interparliamentary conferences to be hosted by the *Folketing* during the Parliamentary dimension of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, noting that these reflect Denmark's key priorities. Among these, Mr BRASK emphasized the unwavering support for Ukraine and boosting European security and defense. He particularly expressed his satisfaction with the presence of Ms Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE at the Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC, and underlined that Europe must continue to be a trusted ally to Ukraine. Continuing, Mr BRASK also welcomed the presence of delegations from several EU candidate countries, as he emphasised EU enlargement as a key driver of long-term European security for all Europeans. Mr BRASK proceeded to present additional Danish priorities, linking them to the topics that would be discussed at the upcoming interparliamentary conferences. Among the priorities mentioned were the next long-term EU budget and how to finance a more ambitious Europe, ready to deliver on present and future challenges. Mr BRASK furthermore mentioned Europe's competitiveness with a focus on innovation, simplifying rules and strengthening businesses to compete internationally. Mr BRASK also underscored the green transition as a major topic for several of the conferences. In that regard he highlighted boosting the production and infrastructure of affordable green energy, as he saw this as the basis for the green transition, for security of energy supply and for European competitiveness. Moreover, on the green transition he highlighted new bio-solutions and plant-based foods, and their support for the green transition of the European agri-food sector. Finally, Mr BRASK addressed the topic of digitalisation and finding the balance between regulating and innovating.



Mr BRASK concluded his welcome address by declaring the Parliamentary dimension of the Danish Presidency officially opened, and hoped he would be able to welcome the Chairs and their colleagues to the upcoming interparliamentary conferences.

OPENING SESSION

Opening speech by Ms Brigitte KLINTSKOV JERKEL, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish *Folketing*

In her opening speech Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL initially also took the opportunity to welcome the chairs of the European Affairs Committees to the Danish *Folketing*. A special welcome was addressed to chairs attending COSAC for the first time, namely Ms Saara-Sofia SIREN from Finnish *Eduskunta*, Ms Edite ESTRELA from Portuguese *Assembleia da República* and Ms Diana STOICA from Romanian *Camera Deputatilor*.

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL proceeded by outlining the agenda of the meeting. The meeting presented, firstly, an opportunity to discuss the Danish Presidency's priorities with the Danish Minister of European Affairs, Ms Marie BJERRE. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL highlighted a few of these priorities, mentioning security, competitiveness, and the green transition and climate targets; for the latter, she argued that Europe should show global leadership. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL also emphasised the changing geopolitical landscape, with among other challenges the wars in both the Middle East and Ukraine. To find good solutions to these challenges, Europe needs to walk the talk, Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL stated. She emphasised that Denmark would do everything in its power to pursue these goals.

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL then moved on to speak of the second session concerning Ukraine and European Security and Defence, where Mr Troels LUND POULSEN (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence), Ms Marie-Agnes STRACK-ZIMMERMANN (Chair of the Committee of Security and Defence of the European Parliament) and Ms Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE (Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada*) would be keynote speakers. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL noted that the fall of the Soviet Union did not lead to lasting peace on the European continent, as many had hoped. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL underscored that Russia's attack on Ukraine was an attack on all of Europe and on European values, and that Russia's hybrid war – including the activities of the so-called shadow fleet aimed to circumvent sanctions – continued to be problematic. With that Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL emphasised the need for Europe to stand together, insisting on a union based on democracy and fundamental values as human rights. In relation to that, she mentioned enlargement as a geopolitical necessity.

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL concluded her speech by stating that the question of the future of the EU had never been more important, and that she in that regard looked forward to fruitful discussions.



PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed delegations of the meeting of the presidential Troika the preceding day. She informed the delegations that the Troika had expressed its support for the agendas of the COSAC meetings during the Danish Presidency, and for the planned Bi-annual Report. She had also informed the Troika about the letters received by the Presidency.

The next point on the agenda was the adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC, which the COSAC Secretariat had distributed. There were no remarks or comments, and the agenda was thereby adopted. Following the adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Chairpersons the next point was a discussion of the draft agenda of the LXXIV COSAC Plenary to take place from 30 November to 2 December 2025. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL presented each session and who the Danish Parliament had invited as keynote speakers in that regard. She also informed the delegations of which keynote speakers had already confirmed their presence. There were no remarks or comments, and the draft agenda was thereby accepted.

Another item of the procedural issues was the approval of the draft outline of the 44th Bi-Annual Report of COSAC. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed the delegations of the topics of the 44th Bi-annual Report. The first topic was national Parliaments' challenges when it comes to ensuring proper parliamentary control of EU proposals adopted by urgency procedures. This would include a mapping of the resources which national Parliaments have set aside to process EU legislation and files. The second topic concerned access to EU documents by national Parliaments. The third topic of the 44th Bi-Annual Report of COSAC would look at the possibility to strengthen political dialogue with the Commission through the so-called green card initiative. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed delegations that the questionnaire would be sent out on 7 July and proposed a deadline for responses on 15 September. There were no comments or remarks and the outline of the 44th Bi-annual Report of COSAC was thereby adopted.

A further procedural issue was the appointment of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for the period 2026-2027. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed the delegations about a proposal from the Danish Presidency to reform the co-financing of the Permanent Member of COSAC which had been discussed at the Troika meeting the day before. She thanked the Troika members for their constructive remarks on the matter. The Danish *Folketing* therefore proposed that in the future the national Parliaments should go from half to full co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, as was already the case with the joint funding of the IPEX Officer. The Danish *Folketing* aimed at this proposal going into force either 1 January 2026 or 1 January 2027. She elaborated that the Swedish *Riksdag* would not extend Mr Jakob SJÖVALL, as the current Permanent member of the COSAC Secretariat,



under the current financing arrangements. The Danish *Folketing* and the Swedish *Riksdag* had therefore agreed to split the cost for seconding Mr SJÖVALL for the year of 2026 if the new financial agreement was not endorsed before 1 January 2026.

Finally, Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL announced that a letter on the procedure of the appointment of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat and the proposal of a new co-financing mechanism would be sent shortly after the end of the COSAC Chairpersons meeting. She concluded by stating that the Danish Presidency would initiate a dialogue with the Troika and the Secretariat to discuss the most effective way forward.

The final procedural issue was the letters received. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed delegations of letters received from Norway, Iceland, the UK House of Lords, and Switzerland regarding participation in the COSAC Chairpersons meeting. The letters had been consulted with the Troika and the requests had been accepted. Furthermore, Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed that, in line with the actions of the preceding Polish Presidency, and after consultation with the Troika, the Danish *Folketing* had decided to not invite representatives from the Georgian *Sakartvelos p'arlament'i* to participate in COSAC. In response to this, a letter had been sent to the Presidency from the Georgian *Sakartvelos p'arlament'i*. Following the letters of participation, Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed the delegations of a letter received from the chairs of the European Affairs Committees of the French *Assemblée nationale* and *Sénat* regarding a proposal to change the COSAC Rules of Procedures. The Danish *Folketing* welcomed the proposal from France and agreed that there was a need for greater clarity on the voting procedures on proposed amendments to draft COSAC contributions, and would therefore put the topic on the agenda at the LXXIV COSAC.

Mr Jean-François RAPIN of the French *Sénat* took the floor to briefly explain that the letter sent jointly by him and Mr Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE of the French *Assemblée Nationale* was prompted by a development discernible over the last few years. Since the last Belgian Presidency, a larger number of amendments to the draft COSAC contributions had been proposed by delegations, but these were often been rejected on account of the high threshold of a three quarters majority to accept proposed amendments. A lower threshold of two thirds majority, as proposed in the letter, would be more democratic, Mr RAPIN argued.

Mr Giulio TERZI DI SANT' AGATA of the Italian *Senato della Repubblica* also took the floor to express his support for the French letter, underlining that it presented an opportunity to simplify procedures and improve the dynamism of the meetings.



SESSION I - PRIORITIES OF THE DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The session was chaired by Ms Brigitte KLINTSKOV JERKEL, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish *Folketing*.

The session began with a keynote speech by Ms Marie BJERRE, Minister for European Affairs of Denmark.

In her speech, Ms BJERRE outlined the political priorities of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, emphasizing the need for a stronger Europe capable of defending itself, competing globally and maintaining robust democracies in a rapidly changing world. She highlighted the importance of finding common ground amid global challenges such as war and trade conflicts, focusing on creating a secure Europe and a competitive and green Europe as core goals. In her intervention, Ms BJERRE underlined the imperative for Europe to assume responsibility for its own and Euro-Atlantic security and advocated strengthening the European defence industry, supporting Ukraine's fight for peace and freedom, intensifying sanctions on Russia and managing irregular migration at external borders. She also pointed to the significance of merit-based enlargement of the EU, especially with Ukraine but also with Moldova and the Western Balkans, as crucial for augmenting the Union's geopolitical strength. In addition, she emphasized that Denmark will work on enhancing Europe's competitiveness, which improves conditions for businesses while simultaneously driving growth through the green transition necessary to combat climate change.

During the following debate, 29 speakers took the floor.

All Parliaments/Chambers voiced their strong support for the Danish Presidency priorities as they addressed the key challenges facing the EU. Most of the speakers underlined the importance of increasing investment in the EU's defence sector and called for continued support to Ukraine. Some speakers noted that, although their countries were not members of NATO, this did not mean they were neutral on Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Various interventions called for additional sanctions against Russia and to counter hybrid threats originating in this country, such as the so-called shadow fleet in the Baltic Sea or disinformation campaigns undermining democratic systems. Some speakers underlined that advancing the green transition and the use of renewable energies would be favourable not only for economic competitiveness but also for security, as it would reduce the dependency on external energy sources.

There was also support for the Presidency's focus on increasing the EU's economic competitiveness, while some speakers underlined that this should not be equated with deregulation. Various interventions also contained remarks that investment in defence should not come at the expense of social protection, regional cohesion or the fight against climate



change. In this regard, most speakers called on the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 to be endowed with the necessary resources to address both traditional and emerging priorities. Tackling irregular migration - notably in the Mediterranean region - and defending the Schengen area were also mentioned as important priorities. EU enlargement was presented by numerous participants - including those from candidate countries - as a geopolitical imperative and an investment in security, but it was also underlined that enlargement should remain a merit-based process. The situation in Gaza and the Middle East, as well as geopolitical competition in the Arctic region, were also mentioned as important elements in the international context facing the Danish Presidency.

The following speakers took the floor during this debate:

Agnieszka POMASKA (Polish *Sejm*), Bastiaan VAN APELDOORN (Dutch *Eerste Kamer*), Edite ESTRELA (Portuguese *Assembleia da República*), Gusty GRAAS (Luxembourgian *Chambre des Députés*), Zoltán TESSELY (Hungarian *Országgyűlés*), Christiana EROKRIOTOU (Cypriot *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*), Edward ZAMMIT LEWIS (Maltese *Kamra tad-Deputati*), Jelena MILOŠ (Croatian *Hrvatski Sabor*), Jean-François RAPIN (French *Sénat*), Tomas TOMILINAS (Lithuanian *Seimas*), Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE (French *Assemblée nationale*), Saara-Sofia SIREN (Finnish *Eduskunta*), Katrijn VAN RIET (Belgian *Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants*), Francisco José CONDE LÓPEZ (Spanish *Congreso de los Diputados*), Dimitrios KOUVELAS (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*), Giulio TERZI DI SANT'AGATA (Italian *Senato della Repubblica*), Anton HOFREITER (German *Bundestag*), Peeter TALI (Estonian *Riigikogu*), José Javier IZQUIERDO RONCERO (Spanish *Senado*), Barry WARD (Irish *Dáil Eireann*), Ján FERENČÁK (Slovak *Národná rada*), Ina COȘERU (Moldovan *Parlamentul Republicii*), Elvira KOVAČ (Serbian *Narodna skupština*), Burhan KAYATÜRK (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Antonijo MILOSHOSKI (North Macedonian *Sobranie*), Kreshnik ÇOLLAKU (Albanian *Kuvendi i Shqipërisë*), Ahmet Mücahit ARINÇ (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Ivan VUKOVIĆ (Montenegrin *Skupština Crne Gore*), Alessandro GIGLIO VIGNA (Italian *Camera dei Deputati*).

SESSION II - UKRAINE AND EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The session was chaired by Mr Henrik MØLLER, Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish *Folketing*.

The session began with a keynote speech given by Mr Troels LUND POULSEN, Danish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, followed by Ms Marie-Agnes STRACK-ZIMMERMANN, Chair of the Committee of Security and Defence of the European Parliament, and finally Ms Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada*.



Mr LUND POULSEN opened by emphasising the urgency of the European security situation, particularly in light of Russia's continued aggression. He underlined that supporting Ukraine remains a top priority for Denmark and called for stronger, long-term EU military support. He mentioned that Denmark had already provided 26 military aid packages totalling €9 billion and is advancing innovative support mechanisms - the "Danish Model," which directly funds Ukraine's defence industry. He highlighted Ukraine's rapid increase in production capacity and stressed the need for further investment, calling on EU countries to contribute. He introduced a new initiative — the "Danish Model 2.0" — which will invite Ukrainian defence companies to begin production in Denmark, enhancing both Ukraine's and Europe's capabilities. Mr LUND POULSEN also stressed the importance of strengthening European defence infrastructure by 2030, improving joint procurement, and reducing dependency on external partners. He affirmed continued support for NATO and the transatlantic alliance but emphasised that Europe must assume greater responsibility for its own defence. In closing, he called for urgent, united action to support Ukraine — not only as a moral duty, but as a strategic necessity for Europe's future security.

Ms STRACK-ZIMMERMANN highlighted the outcomes of recent defence summits in The Hague and Brussels: a commitment to increase defence spending and strengthen cooperation via NATO and EU structures. She underscored that Ukraine's security was inseparable from European security. She warned that time was running out as recent attacks marked a new level of escalation on multiple Ukrainian cities while Putin's statements revealed his imperial ambitions. Ms STRACK-ZIMMERMANN stressed the urgent need to provide Ukraine with air defence systems and ammunition, as well as the importance of strengthening sanctions against Russia. She voiced concern about European companies still conducting business in or with Russia and called for accountability. She emphasised integrating Ukraine into the EU's defence initiatives and welcomed progress on the European Defence Industry Programme, NATO capability priorities, and the EU rearmament plan. The SAFE instrument, the Defence Omnibus, and the next MFF should form a strategic package aimed at building a capable, united European defence system. She underlined that strengthening EU defence must not come at the expense of democratic oversight - parliaments must play a central role. Ms STRACK-ZIMMERMANN called for long-term flagship defence projects and the end of fragmentation and duplication. She stressed that no EU country can defend itself alone — only collective action can ensure European security. Concluding, she announced the first interparliamentary meeting of national defence committees this autumn in the European Parliament in Brussels, to review progress and coordinate future action — with a special invitation to Ukrainian parliamentarians.

Ms KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE opened her speech by thanking the Danish EU Presidency for placing the topic of Ukraine at the centre of their parliamentary agenda and expressed deep gratitude for Denmark's leadership and the continued support from European nations. She emphasized that Ukraine is currently at a critical juncture, facing an intensifying Russian



assault. Just the night before, Ukraine endured a 12.5-hour air raid with over 550 air targets launched against civilian cities, including Kyiv. She warned that despite Ukraine's ongoing struggle and resilience, international support had begun to decline. This shift was due in part to misleading narratives suggesting that "anything is better than war." Ms KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE rejected this notion, stressing that Russian occupation of Ukrainian territory would not bring peace but rather oppression, suffering, and the erosion of fundamental freedoms. She underscored that allowing Russia to succeed would embolden its aggression against other European countries. She pointed to the growing disparity between NATO's defensive capacity and Russia's military output, noting that NATO countries produce fewer munitions in a year than Russia does in three months. With the U.S. scaling back its engagement, she appealed directly to Europe, urging EU Member States to take greater responsibility. Ms KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE called for an immediate scale-up in defence production and direct investment in Ukraine's defence industry, citing Denmark's support model as a best practice. She welcomed the release of the second tranche of windfall profits from frozen Russian assets but stressed the urgency of swift implementation. Furthermore, she emphasized that sanctions against Russia must be strengthened, noting that every euro spent on Russian goods today funds further aggression. She stated clearly that Ukraine is not only defending its own territory but also acting as Europe's shield against authoritarian expansion. Victory, she argued, is still possible—but only with material commitment, political courage, and a shared understanding that this is Europe's war too. She concluded by affirming that Ukraine seeks peace more than anyone but will never accept a "just peace" that rewards the aggressor. True peace must come through strength. Ukraine must win this war - not just for its own survival and democracy, but for the security and future of all of Europe. She called on European leaders to match Ukraine's determination with unwavering support. She concluded with an announcement that she would soon send an invitation to the chairpersons of COSAC to visit Kyiv.

During the following debate, 31 speakers took the floor.

In the debate, members discussed how to strengthen Europe's security and defence amid ongoing current geopolitical tensions, particularly in light of the war in Ukraine. Many emphasised the urgent need for steady military support for Ukraine, with a focus on making EU support long-term and coordinated by the united effort by all member states. It was highlighted in many interventions that peace in Ukraine equals peace in Europe and that no single country could cope with this challenging situation on their own. Furthermore, several speakers advocated deeper cooperation between NATO and the EU, mentioning the so-called Berlin-plus framework, to ensure a cohesive strategy for European defence. There was a broad agreement on the need to expand cooperative military capabilities and empower national parliaments in defence decision-making processes. Some speakers called for closer monitoring of the situation of the shadow fleet, which nowadays directly threatens the Baltic Sea area and countries bordering it. The need for enlargement was also mentioned as an alternative to the



growing Euroscepticism in some candidate countries. Speakers also highlighted the need for a stronger role for national parliaments and more active legislative and budgetary engagement in security affairs, notably concerning an increase in defence spending.

The following speakers took the floor during this debate:

Gabriela MORAWSKA-STANECKA (Polish *Senat*), Giulio TERZI DI SANT'AGATA (Italian *Senato della Repubblica*), Bojan KEKEC (Slovenian *Državni svet*), Katrijn VAN RIET (Belgian *Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants*), Bastiaan VAN APELDOORN (Dutch *Eerste Kamer*), Diana STOICA (Romanian *Camera Deputaților*), Agnieszka POMASKA (Polish *Sejm*), Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE (French *Assemblée nationale*), Andries GRYFFROY (Belgian *Senaat/Sénat*), Edward ZAMMIT LEWIS (Maltese *Kamra tad-Deputati*), Ján FERENČÁK (Slovak *Národná rada*), Erik OTTOSON (Swedish *Riksdag*), Zoltán TESSELY (Hungarian *Országgyűlés*), Jelena MILOŠ (Croatian *Hrvatski sabor*), Saara-Sofia SIREN (Finnish *Eduskunta*), Tomas TOMILINAS (Lithuanian *Seimas*), Anton HOFREITER (German *Bundestag*), Andreas SPANRING (Austrian *Bundesrat*), Jean-François RAPIN (French *Sénat*), Dimitrios KOUVELAS (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*), Peeter TALI (Estonian *Riigikogu*), Dorin Silviu PETREA (Romanian *Senat*), Barry WARD (Irish *Dáil Eireann*), Antonijo MILOSHOSKI (North Macedonian *Sobranie*), Ina COȘERU (Moldovan *Parlamentul Republicii*), Burhan KAYATÜRK (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Elvira KOVAČ (Serbian *Narodna skupština*), Ahmet Mücahit ARINÇ (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Kreshnik ÇOLLAKU (Albanian *Kuvendi*), Lord Peter RICKETTS (United Kingdom *House of Lords*), José Javier IZQUIERDO RONCERO (Spanish *Senado*).

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Henrik MØLLER closed the meeting by emphasising the importance of the topics that had been discussed. Mr MØLLER expressed his thanks to the keynote speakers for their input to the debates and expressed his thanks to the delegations for their active engagement. Concluding, he stated that the Danish *Folketing* looked forward to welcoming delegations once again from 30 November to 2 December for the LXXIV COSAC and all the conferences in between.