

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC

### COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 3 JULY 2025

### PRESENT AT THE MEETING

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

Mr Henrik MØLLER, Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Folketing;

Ms Christiana EROTOKRITOU, Member of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs of the Cyprus *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*;

Ms Agnieszka POMASKA, Chair of the EU Affairs Committee of the Polish Sejm;

Ms Gabriela MORAWSKA-STANECKA, Vice-Chair of the Committee of EU Affairs of the Polish *Senat*;

Mr Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

#### **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL extended words of welcome to the participants of the meeting, in particular to Ms EROTOKRITOU who was participating in the Troika for the first time.

## 1. <u>ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE</u> <u>PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC</u>

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL introduced the <u>agenda of the Troika Meeting</u>, which had been circulated to delegations on 20 June, and which was adopted without amendments.

### 2. <u>APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING OF THE</u> <u>CHAIRPERSONS OF COSAC</u>



Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL presented the <u>agenda of the COSAC Chairpersons meeting</u>. The agenda had been circulated to delegations on 20 June. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL noted that the agenda contains two main sessions, focused on the priorities of the Danish Presidency, on the one hand, and on Ukraine and European security, on the other. She also noted that the agenda contained some procedural issues, including the approval of the outline of the 44th Biannual Report of COSAC and the appointment of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat for the period 2026/27.

Mr GONZÁLEZ PONS took the floor to endorse the agenda, which he found very ambitious and relevant. He added that he had been informed that the presidential Troika would be invited to Kyiv in September or October 2025 by the delegation from Ukraine, and noted that from the European Parliament's side he could see no objections. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL replied that she had also been informed of this, and appreciated the initiative. The Presidency would look at a possible date and get back to the issue.

# 3. <u>DEBATE ON THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF</u> <u>THE LXXIV COSAC</u>

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL then went on to present the main points of the <u>agenda of the</u> <u>LXXIV plenary meeting of COSAC</u>. A draft agenda had been circulated to delegations on 20 June. She highlighted that in addition to four sessions, the programme also contained a focus session and a panel debate. For some of the sessions, external moderators would be invited. She also underlined that the first session where, among others, the Danish Prime Minister and the President of the Commission were invited, focused on the long-term competitiveness of the EU, but would possibly be broadened to accommodate further topical issues, should the need arise, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russian hybrid attacks against Europe, or the so-called shadow fleet transporting Russian oil through the Baltic Sea.

Ms POMASKA expressed her appreciation to the Presidency for the draft, and proposed that the topics of the Russian shadow fleet and current challenges to the Schengen area could be included as topics.

Mr GONZÁLEZ PONS voiced his gratitude to the Presidency for including several speakers from the European Parliament in the programme, and agreed that it would be good to discuss Ukraine again in late autumn, following the COSAC Troika visit to Kyiv. He also underlined that if Commissioners declined to participate, the European Parliament stood ready to support the Presidency in insisting on their attendance.



Ms POMASKA replied that, on this topic, a statement was being prepared to be sent to the European Commission in response to the fact that no Commissioners participated during the parliamentary dimension of the preceding Polish Presidency.

## 4. <u>APPROVAL OF THE OUTLINE OF THE 44TH BI-ANNUAL REPORT OF</u> <u>COSAC</u>

The <u>Outline of the 44th Bi-annual Report of COSAC</u> was presented by Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL, after which it was approved without comments.

# 5. <u>APPOINTMENT OF THE PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE COSAC</u> <u>SECRETARIAT FOR THE PERIOD 2026/27</u>

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed the Troika that the Danish Presidency, following the Troika meeting in Warsaw 8 June 2025, where she introduced the matter, would propose that the co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC should be reformed, so that national parliaments together should share the full cost of the secondment, and not only half of the secondment as is the case currently. This had been communicated to the members of the Troika by email 30 June 2026. The proposal would align with the current financial model of the IPEX Officer. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL further informed the Troika that the Danish *Folketing* would be sending out a letter to all delegations with the hope of a new arrangement being able to enter force on 1 January 2026.

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL explained that the reason for the proposal was dual, as the responsibility of the appointment of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat would be a task for the Danish Presidency, as the current term of Mr Jakob SJÖVALL would expire on 31 December 2025. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL also informed that the Swedish *Riksdag* had informed the Danish *Folketing* that they would not be extending Mr Jakob SJÖVALL, the current Permanent member of the COSAC Secretariat, under the current financing agreement. Moreover, past experiences had shown that it had been a difficult task to get a Permanent Member for the COSAC Secretariat appointed, as it was a costly affair for a national parliament to second their staff. To accommodate a feasible time frame to agree on the proposal of full co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, the Danish *Folketing* and the Swedish *Riksdag* had therefore agreed to split the cost for seconding Mr SJÖVALL for the year of 2026, if it would only be feasible for the full financing to enter into force in 2027.

In response to the proposal of full co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Ms POMASKA indicated that this is a complex issue that, in her opinion, should be discussed in more detail at a different level. She also announced that the Polish Parliament



did not have any objections to examining the initiative of the new co-financing scheme, but reminded the Troika that the outgoing Polish Presidency had secured the co-financing of the COSAC Secretariat for the period 2026-2027 as per standard practice under the current financial scheme. Ms POMASKA proposed that the final decision on the financial commitment should be accompanied by a detailed description of the scope of duties of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, as well as detailed guidelines for the parliaments seconding the Permanent Member. In order to ensure the transparency of the procedure, Ms POMASKA recommended establishing a working group composed of officials from the current Presidential Troika of COSAC and other interested parliaments that would be tasked with drafting the scope of duties of the Permanent Member and guidelines for parliaments seconding the Permanent Member. Ms POMASKA also pointed out that it could be difficult to introduce a new cofinancing scheme from the beginning of 2026, and would have appreciated more data and a plan for the procedure. She then announced that in response to the draft letter from the Danish Parliament regarding the appointment and the new co-financing scheme of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, the Polish Parliament would send a letter communicating those proposals. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL thanked for the suggestions and said that the Danish Parliament would take it into consideration in the further process.

## 6. LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENCY

Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL informed the Troika that the Presidency had received letters from the Parliaments of Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom with requests to participate in COSAC. After consulting with the Troika, these had been replied to favourably by the Presidency. She also informed the Troika members that the Presidency had received a letter from the Georgian *Sakartvelos p'arlament'i* on 20 June. The letter had been uploaded to IPEX. Finally, she also informed the Troika members that the Presidency had received a letter from the chairs of the EU Affairs Committees of the French *Assemblée nationale* and the French *Sénat*. In the letter, the chairs propose to clarify the procedures concerning voting on proposed amendments to COSAC contributions and conclusions. They also proposed that the threshold for adopting such amendments should be lowered from a majority of 3/4 of the votes to 2/3 of the votes. Ms KLINTSKOV JERKEL expressed her openness to consider this proposal and raise it at the next plenary meeting. She underlined that the Troika would be kept informed of any further developments.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.