

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Mr. Danny Pieters

Speaker
Belgian Senate

Mr. André Flahaut

Speaker
Belgian House of Representatives

Budapest, 18 March 2011

Dear Colleagues,

In view of the forthcoming EU Speakers' Conference I would like to convey my appreciation for your efforts to reach a valuable consensus among all national Parliaments and the European Parliament regarding the parliamentary control of common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and common security and defence policy (CSDP).

In order to ensure the possibility of reaching a common ground of decision which can end up in an effective mechanism that can be implemented in a short time enabling the Parliaments to exercise their rights, on behalf of the Hungarian National Assembly, I would like to support the organization of the CFSP and CSDP scrutiny on the basis of the existing possibilities given by the Treaty of Lisbon. The structured parliamentary scrutiny should ensure the establishment of a new structure as little as possible, i.e. the existing and well-functioning cooperation mechanisms should be taken into consideration. Therefore to exploit the possibilities described in Article 10 of Protocol 1 of the Treaty of Lisbon might be an effective solution. This would formalize – with reasonable changes – the work of COFACC and the occasionally organized CODAC meetings, also meaning cost effectiveness.

The Conferences could follow the organization structure of COSAC, with size being aware of the sensitiveness of the different Parliaments and Chambers, therefore delegation might end up consisting six members per Parliament. The chairmanship and organization of work can also follow the mechanisms of COSAC, therefore including troika Parliaments and the European Parliament as well, with the possibility of using again existing structures, thus maybe relying also on the existing secretariats of the COSAC and the administration of the Parliament of the presidency-in-office. No seat has to be clearly defined for the sake of greater flexibility but given the everyday practicality, gathering these meetings twice a year in Brussels should be the obvious solution that we, Parliaments might opt for.

Dear Colleagues, once again let me emphasize how important I consider to reach a consensus on this issue, which should be and – in all my hopes – could be reached at the Conference of the Speakers of the EU Parliaments on 3-5 April in Brussels, which I am looking forward to participate.

Yours sincerely,

Kövér László

Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly