

Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

Mr. Danny Pieters
Speaker
Belgian Senate

Mr. Andre Flahant
Speaker
Belgian House of Representatives

Riga, 11 March 2011

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your efforts in coordinating an agreement on parliamentary scrutiny of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and common security and defence policy (CSDP).

I would like to inform you that on 10 March 2011, the chairmen of the European Affairs Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and the Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention Committee convened and agreed on the following position with regard to the future parliamentary scrutiny of CFSP and CSDP:

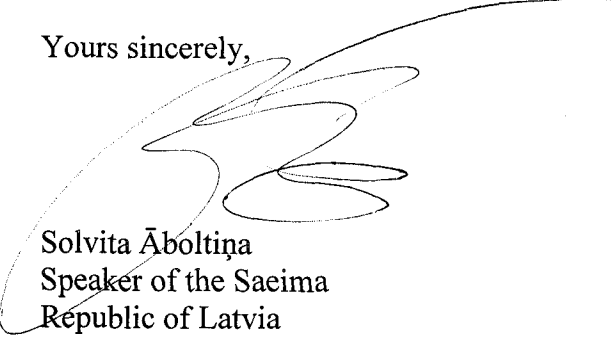
- Article 42.1 of the Treaty on European Union sets forth that “the common security and defence policy shall be an integral part of the common foreign and security policy”; therefore, the relevant line committees should monitor the aforementioned policies on the parliamentary level;
- scrutiny could be carried out during a joint conference of the foreign affairs and defence committees, which could convene once every six months at the presiding country. Delegations from each national parliament and of the European Parliament could consist of up to six members (three representatives from each chamber for bicameral parliaments);
- representatives of parliaments of EU candidate countries could participate in the conference as observers;
- arranging and chairing of the conference could be assumed by the presiding country with the involvement of the previous and next presiding countries;
- participants of the conference could adopt final conclusions based on consensus;
- the conference should establish effective cooperation with the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and, if in specific cases a particular presiding country or a group

of member states wishes to include matters related to foreign affairs or security policy in the agenda of COSAC, then debate on these matters could take place at the COSAC Conference as well, but it should be emphasised that the joint conference of the foreign affairs and defence committees has primary responsibility for these matters.

I look forward for fruitful discussions at the EU Speakers Conference in Brussels on 3-5 April.

In the meantime, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Solvita Āboltiņa
Speaker of the Saeima
Republic of Latvia