

Stockholm 8 March 2011

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Mr Danny Pieters
Speaker of the Belgian Senate

Mr André Flahaut
Speaker of the Belgian House of
Representatives

Dear Speakers, dear Colleagues

Thank you for the invitation to the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments in April. I also want to thank you for your efforts vested in taking the discussion on parliamentary scrutiny of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), including the common security and defence policy (CSDP), forward by presenting a proposal with a view to reach an agreement at our meeting in Brussels.

However, the proposal in its current wording is not in line with the Swedish view of how the parliamentary scrutiny should be done. The Swedish position is that the scrutiny should be carried out at regular meetings within the framework of existing structures for interparliamentary cooperation between the specialised committees in national parliaments, including the relevant committee in the European Parliament. This position has the support of all the political parties in the Riksdag.

Annexed to this letter you will find remarks made by the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Swedish Parliament. The statement, in which these remarks are included, was decided upon by the Plenary on 3 March. These remarks include the point of departure for parliamentary scrutiny of the CFSP, including the CSDP, of the Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as the position of the Committee.

I look forward to seeing you in Brussels on 3-5 April and hope it will be a successful Conference, by way of fruitful discussions.

Yours most respectfully,



Per Westerberg
Speaker of the Riksdag

ANNEX

Extract from 2010/11:UU11, statement of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Finally the Committee would like, in this section focusing on measures to increase the EU's influence on the global arena, to raise the issue of parliamentary scrutiny of the Union's common security and defence policy. The point of departure for the Committee's position is the special nature of common security and defence policy and the national parliaments' role as regards the promotion of the functioning of the European Union. With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the national parliaments have, in the opinion of the Committee, overall responsibility for parliamentary scrutiny of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), including the common security and defence policy (CSDP). The Committee has followed the ongoing discussion on future, interparliamentary scrutiny of the CSDP and considers it of benefit to have a common interparliamentary platform for the exchange of information and experience as regards control of the CSDP under the leadership of the national parliaments. Existing structures for interparliamentary cooperation between the relevant subject committees and the European Parliament, such as the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairs and/or the Conference on Defence Committee Chairs, could serve as a basis, and if necessary be developed for cooperation also in the framework of the CSDP. The Committee does not see the need for any new institutions.