

**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO PIRMININKAS
SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

H. E. Ms Ewa Kopacz
Marshal of the Sejm
Republic of Poland

28 December 2011, Vilnius

H. E. Mr Bogdan Michal Borusewicz
Marshal of the Senate
Republic of Poland

Dear colleagues,

In response to the letter of 29 November 2011, I would like to emphasise that the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania highly commends your initiative to find a compromise over the format of the interparliamentary conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (including the Common Security and Defence Policy).

The Lithuanian position rests on the joint decision of the Committee on European Affairs, Committee on National Security and Defence, and Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. The decision underlines that debates on the common foreign and security policy should be held by uniting the two currently separate conferences – Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and Conference of the Defence Affairs Committees (CODAC) – into a single interparliamentary conference. We oppose the establishment of a new institution.

Each Member State and the European Parliament should be entitled to an equal number of members to its parliamentary delegation in the interparliamentary conference.

Each parliament would have the possibility to decide on the composition of the delegation.

We support the idea that EU candidate countries and non-EU NATO members in Europe would have the right to participate as observers in the interparliamentary assembly.

We would also like to draw your attention to Article 10 of Protocol No 1 to the Lisbon Treaty which contains a provision that “a conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs [COSAC] (...) may organise interparliamentary conferences on specific topics, in particular to debate matters of common foreign and security policy.” We believe that ways should be explored of involving the COSAC Secretariat in the organisation of the interparliamentary conference.

Dear colleagues, I would like to assure you that the current vacuum in the field of the common foreign and security policy is at variance with the interests of Lithuania. Therefore we expect that the compromise will be reached at the Conference of the Speakers of the EU Parliaments to be held in Poland in 2012.

Sincerely,

Irena Degutienė