

## AD HOC REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

### SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY AND THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

5 September 2013  
Vilnius

The Working Group of the Ad Hoc Review Committee, having convened in the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy on 4-6 September 2013 in Vilnius, examined the proposals to the Rules of Procedure Inter-Parliamentary Conference submitted by the national Parliaments and classified them according to their compliance with the Treaty on European Union (hereinafter referred to as the “Treaty”) and the Presidency Conclusions of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments, adopted in Warsaw on 20-21 April 2012 (hereinafter referred to as the “Warsaw Conclusions”) into the following categories:

**Category 1** – proposals compatible with the Treaty and the Warsaw Conclusions.

**Category 2** – proposals in contradiction with the Treaty.

**Category 3** – proposals in contradiction with the Warsaw Conclusions.

**Category 4** – proposals to be further examined.

The proposals shall be further considered under the Greek Presidency in the first semester of 2014.

#### **Category 1 – proposals compatible with the Treaty and the Warsaw Conclusions**

<b>Croatia</b> <i>(The Croatian Parliament)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Preamble - Paragraph 1:</b>  The Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), hereinafter referred to as the " <del>Inter-Parliamentary Conference</del> " " <b>COFDAC</b> "
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	<p><b>Reasoning of proposal:</b>  <i>The Croatian delegation proposes the replacement of the abbreviation “Inter-Parliamentary Conference” with the abbreviation “COFDAC” throughout the entire text.</i></p>
<p><b>Latvia</b>  <i>(Saeima)</i></p>	<p><b>Supplementing the Preamble with a new Paragraph 6 (thus deleting Article 1.3.) to read as follows:</b></p> <p><b>The Inter-Parliamentary Conference replaces the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and the Conference of Defence Affairs Committee Chairpersons (CODACC).</b></p>
<p><b>The United Kingdom</b>  <i>(The House of Lords and The House of Commons)</i></p>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 1, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b></p> <p><i>More generally, we would like to emphasise our belief that the purpose of the AHRC and its recommendations should be to provide suggestion on how the effective functioning of the Conference should be improved.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, consideration may be given to how the size of the Conference impacts upon debate and the general efficiency of the Conference, and the process by which the formal Conclusion of the conference are formulated and agreed. On the latter point, some of the UK delegates to the Dublin meeting were concerned they were not given sufficient opportunity to consider the draft Conclusion. Finally, the AHRC should not look to expand the remit or role of the Conference beyond the principles and framework agreed by Speakers, which were reached after some difficulty at the EU Speakers’ Conferences in Warsaw on 20-21 April 2012 and Brussels in 4-5 April 2011.</i></p>
<p><b>The Netherlands</b>  <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i></p>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 2 – 2.1., reasoning and aim of proposal:</b></p> <p><i>For budgetary and practical reasons, the delegations should be restricted to six delegates of each national parliament and to sixteen delegates of the European Parliament (at maximum).</i></p>
<p><b>Lithuania</b>  <i>(Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania)</i></p>	<p><b>Proposal to supplement the Rules of Procedure:</b>  New proposal 2013-09-04</p> <p><i>To define the composition and the role of the Presidential Troika of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which could consist of the delegations of the national Parliaments of the Presidency, the preceding Presidency, the following Presidency, and the European Parliament.</i></p>
<p><b>Latvia</b>  <i>(Saeima)</i></p>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 3.1.:</b>  <i>Changes in the order of sentences</i></p> <p>3.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall convene once every six months in the country of the Presidency Parliament or in the European Parliament in Brussels. <b><u>Extraordinary meetings shall be held when deemed necessary or urgent.</u></b> The Presidency <b><u>Parliament</u></b> shall decide on the matters. <del>Extraordinary meetings shall be held when deemed necessary or urgent.</del></p>
<p><b>The Netherlands</b>  <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i></p>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b></p> <p><i>On a practical level, the communication and cooperation between conference delegations can be improved by setting up an e-mail group list for delegates</i></p>

	<i>(i.e. Heads of Delegation) and their clerks, in addition to the network of parliaments' permanent representatives in Brussels.</i>
<b>The Netherlands</b> <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>The effectiveness of the conference and the interaction between the delegates can be improved by organising a number of (small group) topical debates, working groups, breakout sessions, presentations, side events et cetera instead of or next to the plenary meeting.</i>
<b>The United Kingdom</b> <i>(The House of Lords and The House of Commons)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>One change which we would suggest is the use of concurrent "break-out" session, in addition to the plenary sessions, where interested groups could assemble in smaller numbers to address specific issues of a more strategic nature. We know from our informal discussion with you and your colleagues in Paphos that this is something you were already considering and we would certainly like to encourage it.</i>
<b>The United Kingdom</b> <i>(The House of Lords and The House of Commons)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>Another improvement would be to shift the balance from lengthy presentation by the speakers to more time for questions and answers, which is the fundamental purpose of the meetings. It is also important to ensure that each chamber present is able to contribute during each debate should they wish.</i>
<b>The Netherlands</b> <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	<b>Amendments, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>The Dutch parliament considers the CFSP/CSDP conference to be a formal platform consisting of delegations of the national parliaments in the EU and of the European Parliament. Political groups cannot have an official status or formal rights in the CFSP/CSDP conference (contrary to the practices in the European Parliament and in certain parliamentary assemblies).</i>
<b>Latvia</b> <i>(Saeima)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 4.1., b):</b>  <b>(b) A draft agenda shall be communicated to all Parliaments in good time before <del>no later than eight (8) weeks prior to</del> each meeting. The agenda must be approved by a majority prior to the start of the meeting.</b>
<b>The Netherlands</b> <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.2, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>The continuity of the CFSP/CSDP conference is better served by a good transfer between the consecutive presidencies. It is suggested to publish a (public) transfer report prior to the conference, elaborating on the efforts that have been made by the preceding presidency and on the priorities of the succeeding one.</i>
<b>The Netherlands</b> <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.2, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>The impact of the contributions delivered by the CFSP/CSDP conference towards the European institutions and the High Representative can be increased by better monitoring of the implementation of the conference conclusions and the follow up on the statements and commitments by the High Representative to the conference. These matters can be addressed in the</i>

	<i>suggested bi-annual 'transfer report'.</i>
<b>The Netherlands</b> <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 6, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>In order to guarantee cost effectiveness and the involvement of all delegations to the conference, no permanent presidency or permanent secretariat or other form of institutionalisation should be established.</i>
<b>Lithuania</b> <i>(Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 7 – 7.2.:</b>  7.2. Draft conclusions of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be drawn up by the Presidency Parliament in English and French and communicated to the delegations of national Parliaments and the European Parliament <del>during the meeting in a reasonable time before their adoption</del> <b>in good time before the relevant meeting of Inter-Parliamentary Conference</b> for any amendments to be submitted and considered.

**Category 2 – proposals in contradiction with the Treaty**

<b>Spain</b> <i>(The Cortes Generales)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 2 – 2.3., a):</b>  a) The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall <b>discuss and set out, in the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary conference</b> , <del>be invited to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to set out</del> the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP.
<b>Germany</b> <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 2 – 2.3., a):</b>  2.3. The High Representative, special guests and specialists a) The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall be invited to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP. <b>A written statement should be communicated in advance by the High Representative.</b>
<b>Croatia</b> <i>(The Croatian Parliament)</i>	<b>Amendments to the Article 2 - 2.3.,a):</b>  2.3. The High Representative, special guests and specialists a) The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall be invited to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP. <b>A written statement or report should be communicated in advance by the High Representative.</b>
<b>Spain</b> <i>(The Cortes Generales)</i>	<b>Supplementing the text with Article 2 - 2.3., b):</b>  <b>b) To that effect, the High Representative shall submit to the conference in advance a statement for review. On an annual basis, the High Representative shall prepare a report related to the conclusions and recommendations agreed by the Inter-Parliamentary conference. That report may be reviewed every six months.</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Supplementing the text with the new Article 4. POLITICAL GROUPS:</b>

<i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	<b>4. At least six (6) members from at least five (5) different delegations have the right to create a political group.</b>
<b>Germany</b> <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 7 – 7.3.:</b></p> <p>7.3. Once the conclusions have been adopted, the Presidency Parliament shall communicate the final texts in English and French, each of these texts being equally authentic, to all delegations, to the Presidents of national Parliaments and the European Parliament, to the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, for their information. <b>The Presidency Parliament shall also communicate the final texts to the High Representative and to the Presidents of the Council and the Commission and ask them to deliver an opinion.</b></p>

### Category 3 – proposals in contradiction with the Warsaw Conclusions

<b>Germany</b> <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 2 - 2.1., a), reasoning and aim of proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The German delegation proposes that the number of members from each parliament could be based, perhaps proportionally, on the distribution formula used for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. See Annex (page 12).</i></p>
<b>Germany</b> <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.1., b):</b></p> <p>(b) A draft agenda shall be communicated to all Parliaments no later than eight (8) weeks prior to each meeting. <b>The agenda must be approved by a majority prior to the start of the meeting. Motions to amend the agenda must be submitted by at least three (3) members from at least two (2) different delegations and substantiated prior to the adoption of the agenda; decisions on such amendments shall be made by majority.</b></p>
<b>Germany</b> <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 4 – 4.2:</b></p> <p>4.2. Other documents Prior to each meeting, delegations may send any documents relating to items of the agenda to the Secretariat of the Presidency Parliament. The Presidency Parliament may also draw up discussion documents for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. <b>Discussion papers may be added at the request of three (3) members, subject to a decision adopted by a simple majority.</b></p>
<b>Germany</b> <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 5, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b></p> <p><i>The German delegation proposes that German is given a status in line with the fact that the IPC is a EU interparliamentary body (Oral Amendment presented 9/11/2012 by the Head of the German delegation)</i></p>
<b>Latvia</b> <i>(Saeima)</i>	<p><b>Amendments to the Article 7.1, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Bearing in mind the best practice used within the framework of COSAC (see the respective Rules of Procedure Article 7.5.), Paragraph 1 of Article 7. “Conclusions” in the current wording of the draft Rules of Procedure shall read as follows:</i></p>

	7.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference <del>may by consensus</del> <b>shall seek to adopt by broad consensus</b> non-binding conclusions on CFSP and CSDP matters related to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. <b>If this is not possible, contributions shall be adopted with a qualified majority of at least 3/4 of the votes cast. The majority of 3/4 of the votes cast must at the same time constitute at least half of all votes.</b>
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<b>Germany</b> (The German Bundestag)	<b>Amendments to the Article 7 – 7.1.:</b>  7.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference, <b>acting by a three-quarters majority of votes cast</b> , <del>may by consensus</del> adopt non-binding conclusions on CFSP and CSDP matters related to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.
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<b>Germany</b> (The German Bundestag)	<b>Supplementing the text with the new Article 7 - 7.3.:</b>  <b>7.3. Voting rights shall be exercised individually.</b>
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<b>Latvia</b> (Saeima)	<b>Supplementing the Article 7.4, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>With reference to principles set by the Article 7 of the Second Protocol of the Lisbon Treaty, insert a NEW Paragraph (7.4) to read as follows:</i>  <b>7.4. Each delegation shall have two votes. In the case of a bicameral Parliamentary system, each of the two chambers shall have one vote.</b>
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<b>Germany</b> (The German Bundestag)	<b>Amendments to the Article 8 – 8.2.:</b> (2013-08-28 correction of the proposal)  8.2. Any amendments, which the delegations of national Parliaments, <b>political groups</b> and the European Parliament may propose to the Rules of Procedure, are subject to a decision <del>by consensus and must be in accordance with the framework set by the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments</del> <b>taken by a three-quarters majority. The quorum for these votes is two-thirds of all members.</b>
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**Category 4 – proposals to be further examined**

<b>Croatia</b> (The Croatian Parliament)	<b>Supplementing the text with Article 2 - 2.3., b):</b>  <b>b) The Presidency Parliament may invite, in close cooperation with the national Parliaments and the European Parliament, special guests and specialists to address the meetings on matters relating to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference</b>
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<b>The Netherlands</b> (The House of Representatives and The Senate)	<b>Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.1., reasoning and aim of proposal:</b>  <i>It is recommended that all delegations are consulted about the programme of the next conference before the draft is conveyed. This practice will give all delegations the opportunity to actively suggest agenda topics. It will strengthen the commitment to the conference and will facilitate the preparations as well.</i>
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<b>Latvia</b> (Saeima)	<b>Supplementing the Rules of Procedure with the new Article 10:</b>  <b>10. ENTRY INTO FORCE</b> <b>10.1. These Rules of Procedure are drawn up in a single original in English</b>
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	<b>and French, each of these texts being equally authentic, and shall be published in the official languages of the European Union. They shall enter into force on the adoption date.</b>
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<b>Cyprus</b> <i>(The House of Representatives)</i>	<p><b>Amendments, reasoning and aim of proposal:</b></p> <p><i>Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the Conclusions of the inaugural Meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on the CFSP and CSDP held in Paphos, on 9-10 September 2012, stipulate that:</i></p> <p><i>"7. [The Inter-Parliamentary Conference] is convinced that Parliaments have a crucial role in promoting democratic values and accountable systems of good governance and emphasizes, therefore, the need for an enhanced role of parliaments, particularly in supporting the democratic transitions in its Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood;</i></p> <p><i>8. Takes the view that this requires, inter alia, enhanced monitoring of the democratic processes in the Union's Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood and coordination, through joint initiatives and improved exchange of information, as well as parliamentary activities in support to these countries;</i></p> <p><i>9. Requests the Presidency to develop proposals to this effect before the next Inter-Parliamentary Conference Meeting;"</i></p> <p><i>In accordance with paragraph 9, the Cyprus House of Representatives suggests that a fact-finding mission be set up by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to monitor the democratic processes in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Neighbourhood. For this purpose, the mission will pay visits to Arab Spring countries and report its findings to the Conference.</i></p> <p><i>The mission can be composed of up to eight members to be decided upon by the Conference, through an open call. A coordinator can be decided from within the group. The composition can be renewed for each mission.</i></p> <p><i>The duration of the mission's mandate can extend until the next Conference and can be renewed.</i></p> <p><i>The Secretariat can be ensured by the Parliament of which the Coordinator is a Member, acting in cooperation with the Presidency Troika and the European Parliament.</i></p> <p><i>The cost of missions can be covered by participating Parliaments.</i></p>
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## Annex referring to the amendments of Germany on Article 2 - 2.1.

	CoE PA votes	multiplied by 2/3	rounded up; minimum 4
Austria	6	4,00	4,00
Belgium	7	4,67	5,00
Bulgaria	6	4,00	4,00
Croatia	5	3,33	4,00
Cyprus	3	2,00	4,00
Czech Republic	7	4,67	5,00
Denmark	5	3,33	4,00
Estonia	3	2,00	4,00
Finland	5	3,33	4,00
France	18	12,00	12,00
Germany	18	12,00	12,00
Greece	7	4,67	5,00
Hungary	7	4,67	5,00
Ireland	4	2,67	4,00
Italy	18	12,00	12,00
Latvia	3	2,00	4,00
Lithuania	4	2,67	4,00
Luxembourg	3	2,00	4,00
Malta	3	2,00	4,00
Netherlands	7	4,67	5,00
Poland	12	8,00	8,00
Portugal	7	4,67	5,00
Romania	10	6,67	7,00
Slovakia	5	3,33	4,00
Slovenia	3	2,00	4,00
Spain	12	8,00	8,00
Sweden	6	4,00	4,00
United Kingdom	18	12,00	12,00
	212	141,33	161,00
European Parliament	18	12,00	16,00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>153,33</b>	<b>177,00</b>

