



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC**

**STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, 14 MAY 2023**

### **PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

CHAIR: Mr Hans WALLMARK and Ms Matilda ERNKRANS, respectively Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Swedish *Riksdag*;

Ms Susana SUMELZO, Chair of the Joint Committee for EU Affairs of the Spanish *Cortes Generales*, and Rubén MORENO, Member of the Joint Committee for EU Affairs of the Spanish *Cortes Generales*;

Mr Ondřej KOLÁŘ, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Czech *Poslanecká sněmovna*; Ms Adéla ŠÍPOVÁ, Vice-Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Czech *Senát*;

Mr Othmar KARAS, First Vice-President, European Parliament; Mr Salvatore DE MEO, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament.

### **AGENDA**

<b>PROCEEDINGS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Adoption of the draft agenda of the Meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Approval of the draft programme of the plenary meeting of the LXIX COSAC</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Presentation of the 39th Bi-annual Report of COSAC</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. Draft Contribution and Conclusions : plenary meeting of the LXIX COSAC</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Letters received by the Presidency</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Any other business</b>	<b>5</b>

## **PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TROIKA OF COSAC**

Mr Hans WALLMARK, Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs of the Swedish *Riksdag* welcomed the delegations of the Presidential Troika of COSAC (hereinafter referred to as "the Troika") to Stockholm. He then referred to the [draft agenda of the meeting of the Troika](#), previously circulated to all delegations, which was adopted without amendment.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE LXIX COSAC**

Mr WALLMARK introduced the [draft agenda of the LXIX COSAC](#), mentioning the four thematic sessions which would be covered during the meeting:

- the first session would be dedicated to an overview of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU;
- the second session would discuss the 30 years of the Single Market;
- the third session would be focused on the EU's path towards a green transition;
- and the fourth and final session would focus on Ukraine.

Since there were no additional remarks on the draft agenda for the LXIX COSAC, Mr WALLMARK ended this debate by noting the support of the Troika to the proposed draft programme, which was approved.

### **3. PRESENTATION OF THE 39TH BI-ANNUAL REPORT OF COSAC**

Mr WALLMARK referred to the [39th Bi-annual Report of COSAC](#), which was drafted by the COSAC Secretariat on the basis of replies to the related questionnaire circulated to national Parliaments/Chambers on 14 February 2023, with a deadline on 16 March for submitting the answers. Mr WALLMARK thanked the COSAC Secretariat for their work and gave the floor to its Permanent Member, Mr Bruno DIAS PINHEIRO, to present the Report.

Mr DIAS PINHEIRO emphasised the fact that all the 39 Parliaments/Chambers and the European Parliament had replied to the questionnaire, expressing the expectation that the findings of the Report might prove useful not only for the COSAC Plenary but also for the works in the months ahead.

He further recalled that the three chapters of the Report were dedicated to: 1. the role of Parliaments/Chambers in the handling of the Fit for 55 package; 2. the role of Parliaments/Chambers in the accelerated decision-making processes in response to crises; 3. the best practices for information exchange between Parliaments, including the use of IPEX.

The main results from the Report were summarised in a [short video clip](#) produced by the Permanent Member and presented at the end of his intervention.

#### **4. DRAFT CONTRIBUTION AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE LXIX COSAC**

Mr Hans WALLMARK introduced the procedure regarding the adoption of Contribution and Conclusions by the LXIX COSAC, recalling that the Presidency had consulted the Troika for comments and reactions about the initial drafts of the Contribution and Conclusions on 14 April 2023. After that consultation, the Presidency prepared a revised draft that was circulated to all delegations on 28 April.

He noted that several amendments to the drafts had been put forward by delegations within the set deadline of 5 May and that the Presidency had distributed a table with those amendments to the Troika on 10 May, together with revised compromise texts of the Contribution and Conclusions.

He also mentioned that the Swedish Presidency had tried to present a concise text that would reflect the topics actually discussed at the COSAC meetings. He briefly commented on the amendments received, referring that the Presidency had tried to accommodate most of them, but trying to keep the text balanced and susceptible of reaching consensus amongst delegations. With regard to the draft Conclusions, Mr WALLMARK informed that no amendments were received within the deadline of 5 May, but that the European Parliament had asked for the insertion of a reference to the Conclusions of the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments held in Prague on 24-25 April 2023, in particular the invitation to COSAC to propose an exchange of best practices and to reflect on possible ways to strengthen modern parliamentarism. This suggestion was accommodated by the Swedish Presidency.

Mr Othmar KARAS, First Vice-President, European Parliament took the floor to thank the Presidency for the excellent preparatory work ahead of the LXIX COSAC, including on the drafts of the Contribution and Conclusions. He noted that the consensus reached on both texts showed how the Troika was united and operating in a very good atmosphere. Mr KARAS informed that the European Parliament supported the Presidency compromise text of the Contribution, as being a balanced draft which identified potential points for future action. On the Conclusions, he appreciated the inclusion of the above-mentioned proposal to make reference to the Conclusions of the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, emphasising how it was important that COSAC could establish this link with the Conference of Speakers. Furthermore, he noted that the consensus reached on the texts should be mentioned during the meetings of the political groups that would take place the next day.

Mr KARAS also expressed his appreciation for the work of the COSAC Secretariat and highlighted that the results of the 39th COSAC Bi-annual report identify the challenges

ahead for the EU and Parliaments, noting that not all of them were involved in the same way in the oversight of EU matters.

The draft Contribution and Conclusions were therefore approved by the Troika.

## 5. LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENCY

Mr WALLMARK recalled the following letters received by the Presidency requesting invitations to attend the COSAC meetings that were received before the Chairpersons meeting:

- Mr Benedikt WÜRTH, President of the Swiss delegation for relations with the European Parliament, Swiss *Assemblée fédérale*;
- Mr Masud GHARAHKHANI, President of the Norwegian *Stortinget*;
- Lord Charles KINNOULL, Chair of the European Union Committee, United Kingdom (UK) *House of Lords*;
- Mr Bjarni JÓNSSON, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Icelandic *Althingi*;
- Ms Maka BOTCHORISHVILI, Chair of the Committee on European Integration of the Georgian *Sakartvelos p'arlament'i*;
- Ms Rrezarta KRASNIQI, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, Kosovo<sup>1</sup> *Kuvendi i Kosovës*.

He also mentioned that ahead of the LXIX COSAC meeting, letters requesting an invitation to attend the Plenary were also received from Sir William CASH, UK *House of Commons*, and from Brigitte BOCONE-PAGES, President of the *Conseil National* of Monaco, and Régis BERGONZI, Chair of the respective Committee on Negotiations with the European Union.

Mr WALLMARK said that, following consultation with the Presidential Troika of COSAC, invitations had been extended to all the above-mentioned Parliaments to take part in the LXIX COSAC.

Finally, he also alluded to the letter sent to the Presidency with the Conclusions of the meeting of the Committees on European Affairs of the Parliaments of the Visegrád countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia), held in Budapest between 16–18 April 2023.

All the letters mentioned were made available on [IPEX](#).

---

<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244(1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr WALLMARK reminded that the co-financing of the current Permanent Member and the office of the COSAC Secretariat would end on 31 December 2023 and that the Swedish Presidency had invited Parliaments to renew their commitment to the co-financing agreement for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025. He then announced that 39 out of the 39 National Parliaments/Chambers had signed and sent their letters of intent indicating that they were willing to participate in the co-financing for the above stated period, emphasising the fact this procedure could therefore be initiated and concluded during the Swedish Presidency and thus the co-financing of the Permanent Member and the office of the COSAC Secretariat would continue.

Mr WALLMARK recalled that, on the deactivation of the old COSAC website ([www.cosac.eu](http://www.cosac.eu)), no objections were communicated to the Presidency by the set deadline of 10 May and therefore Conclusions of the LXIX COSAC Plenary would take note of the decision to end the old website, and the COSAC Secretariat would be tasked with implementing that decision, effective as of 2023/24.

Mr WALLMARK concluded the meeting by thanking colleagues for the participation and for the good cooperation within the Presidential Troika of COSAC.