



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF COSAC

WARSAW, POLAND, 26 - 27 JANUARY 2025

Note: A video recording of the full meeting is available via the webpage of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Polish Presidency.

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CHAIR: Mr Tomasz GRODZKI, Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Polish *Senat*, and Ms Agnieszka POMASKA, Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Polish *Sejm*.

OPENING SESSION

Opening speech by Ms Małgorzata KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA, Marshal of the Senate of Poland

In her opening speech, Ms KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA initially recalled the recent speech by the Prime Minister of Poland, Mr Donald TUSK, in Strasbourg, in which he had stressed that Europe is and will remain great. Europe is a good place to live in, defined by democracy and the rule of law. She underlined that parliamentarians have a special responsibility for the future of Europe. It is the duty of parliamentarians to listen, explain, and also to be bold about the future of European policy. She went on to underline that Europe is only powerful when it speaks with one voice, and only then it is capable of presenting its interests with solidarity. Agency is the most valuable currency of policy, she added. The world today is fraught with danger, which is why citizens expect decisive action for security, she continued. Peace is coming to an end, and together we must be capable of making our defence industries and militaries strong enough so that no one would even think of attacking Europe, she underlined. She then pointed out that economic security is also particularly important at present, emphasizing that Europe has all the tools to ensure that the 21st century is the century of a strong Europe. She brought to attention that the Polish Presidency has security as its overarching priority, across several sectors. She highlighted that security also involves strengthening the Union's resilience to natural disasters, which is why the second part of the meeting was dedicated to addressing the impact of climate change from the perspective of the EU budget. She also reminded delegations that the Polish Presidency coincides with a new legislative cycle and the preparations for the new Multiannual Financial Framework. Finally, she stated that there is no time for weakness or lack of agency in the face of the dual challenge: finding answers to global turbulence and gaining citizens' support for the bold plan to build a secure Europe. It is a collective duty to reinforce Europe's greatness.



PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr GRODZKI took the floor to briefly present the proposed agenda for the Chairpersons meeting. He also noted that the draft agenda had been communicated to delegations in advance, and uploaded to IPEX. The agenda was then adopted without any comments.

Mr GRODZKI went on to briefly present the outcome of the meeting of the presidential Troika the preceding day. He then gave a brief presentation of the draft programme of the LXXIII COSAC Plenary Meeting, to be held in Warsaw on 8-10 June 2025. The Prime Minister of Poland, Mr Donald TUSK, had been invited as a keynote speaker for the first session of the meeting concerning the implementation of the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. During the second session titled 'The European Commission and the European Parliament work programmes in the new institutional cycle. Strategic Agenda of the European Union', Mr GONZÁLEZ PONS had agreed to deliver a keynote speech, and Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency, had also been invited to act as a keynote speaker during this session. Invitations had furthermore been extended to Mr Adam SZŁAPKA, Polish Minister for the European Union, Mr Andrzej DOMAŃSKI, Polish Minister for Finance, and Mr Piotr SERAFIN, Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration, to attend as keynote speakers during the third session of the meeting on the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework. Similarly, invitations had been extended to Mr Radosław SIKORSKI, Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to Ms Marta KOS, Commissioner for Enlargement, to participate in the fourth session dealing with the enlargement policy of the European Union as keynote speakers. Lastly, Mr Krzysztof GAWKOWSKI, Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, the Government Plenipotentiary for Cybersecurity, and a representative from the European External Action Service, were envisaged to be keynote speakers for the fifth and last session of the LXXIII COSAC on cyber-resilience and disinformation.

Thereafter Mr GRODZKI informed delegations that the first annual report on the activities of the COSAC Secretariat was available on IPEX. The report had been developed as a joint initiative between the Polish Presidency and the current Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, Mr Jakob SJÖVALL, with the aim of increasing the transparency of the work of the Secretariat. This report is intended to be an annually recurring report.

Following this, the outline of the 43rd Bi-annual Report of COSAC was briefly described by Mr GRODZKI. He noted that the questionnaire for the report would be sent out on 4 February, with a deadline for replies set for 17 March. The document was then adopted without any comments.



Mr GRODZKI also informed delegations that letters had been sent to the Presidency from the parliaments of Kosovo¹, Norway and Switzerland, as well as from the UK House of Lords, with requests to attend the Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC. After consulting with the Troika, the Presidency had replied affirmatively to these letters. Mr GRODZKI also informed the Troika that a letter had been received from the parliament of Georgia. This letter was sent in reply to the letter previously sent by the Presidency, after consultation with the Troika, to the parliament of Georgia expressing deep concern about the situation in Georgia and explaining that the Presidency no longer supports the invitation to Georgia to participate in the Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC.

Lastly, Mr GRODZKI also informed delegations that a request for co-financing of the COSAC Secretariat for the period 2026-2027 would be sent out to delegations in accordance with Article 9.5 of the Rules of Procedure of COSAC. The letter would be sent on 29 January, with a request for Parliaments/Chambers willing to contribute to send a letter of intent by 12 May the latest.

SESSION I - PRIORITIES OF THE POLISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The session was chaired by Mr Tomasz GRODZKI, Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Poland and Ms Agnieszka POMASKA Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

The session began with a keynote speech by Mr Adam SZŁAPKA, Minister for the European Union Affairs of Poland.

In his speech, Mr SZŁAPKA outlined the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which reflect Poland's commitment to strengthen European security across various dimensions, such as internal, external, information, economic, energy, food and health. Mr SZŁAPKA underlined the significance of addressing all these aspects of security in order to ensure a comprehensive approach to the challenges that the European Union was currently facing. He also emphasized the paramount importance of collective responsibility for Europe's security, highlighting the need to bolster support for Ukraine, strengthen sanctions against Russia, and enhance the EU's defence capabilities. In his intervention, Mr SZŁAPKA reminded all participants that Europe was still a dream for many countries and that the current reality required continuous action and commitment. In addition, he underlined that this was the reason why the motto chosen for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council was "Security, Europe!"

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



During the following debate, 41 speakers took the floor.

In the debate, there was unanimous support for the Polish Presidency's focus on security as the central and cross cutting priority for the EU. Effectively promoting this would require political leadership and unity within the EU. A majority of speakers referred to military security and the need to reinforce the EU's defence capabilities. This would require additional resources, which some speakers linked to increasing the share of GDP that Member States devote to defence, while others also mentioned initiatives such as an EU defence fund. Continued support to Ukraine, as it resisted Russia's war of aggression, was noted as essential for the EU's security in numerous interventions, while various speakers also highlighted the need to counter hybrid threats including the recent attacks on submarine connectivity infrastructure in the Baltic Sea.

Disinformation and foreign interference were also identified as important threats to the EU, with a number of speakers mentioning that these threats came not only from states such as Russia, but also increasingly from powerful individuals such as Mr. Elon MUSK. The threat represented by the election of a US President who openly challenged the multilateral order and threatened NATO allies, as was the case with Denmark in relation to Greenland, was also mentioned. Speakers mentioned that this would be a test of the EU's resolve and unity in guaranteeing its own security. Numerous interventions noted that strengthening the EU's economic competitiveness was also essential for the EU's security. In relation to this, speakers mentioned the need to reinforce the single market, facilitating access to common investments and reducing the administrative burden for the private sector. Resilience and preparedness were also identified as necessary elements for promoting the EU's security across different sectoral areas.

The following speakers took the floor during this debate:

Zoltán TESSELY (Hungarian *Országgyűlés*), Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS (European Parliament), Gabriela MORAWSKA-STANECKA (Polish *Sejm*), Giulio TERZI DI SANT'AGATA (Italian *Senato della Repubblica*), Erik OTTOSON (Swedish *Riksdag*), Peter DE ROOVER (Belgian *Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants*), Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE (French *Assemblée nationale*), Bastiaan VAN APELDOORN (Dutch *Eerste Kamer*), Francisco José CONDE LÓPEZ (Spanish *Cortes Generales*), Rasa BUDBERGYTE (Lithuanian *Seimas*), Anton HOFREITER (German *Bundestag*), Bojan KEKEC (Slovenian *Državni svet*), Heikki AUTTO (Finnish *Eduskunta*), Maria-Gabriela HORGĂ (Romanian *Senat*), Jelena MILOŠ (Croatian *Hrvatski sabor*), Peter HAUBNER (Austrian *Nationalrat*), Janusz LEWANDOWSKI (European Parliament), Jean-François RAPIN (French *Sénat*), Harris GEORGIADES (Cypriot *Vouli ton Antiprosopon*), Ján FERENCÁK (Slovak *Národná rada*), Telmo FARIA (Portugal *Assembleia da República*), Vincent BLONDEL (Belgium *Senaat/Sénat*), Edward ZAMMIT LEWIS (Maltese *Kamra tad-Deputati*), Dimitris KAIRIDIS (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*), Edmunds CEPURITIS (Latvian *Saeima*), Pere Joan PONS (Spanish *Cortes Generales*), Jasna VOJNIĆ (Croatian *Hrvatski*



sabor), Caroline VAN DER PLAS (Dutch *Tweede Kamer*), Peeter TALI (Estonian *Riigikogu*), Dimitar GARDEV (Bulgarian *Narodno sabranie*), Mirela FURTUNĂ (Romanian *Camera Deputaților*), Henrik MØLLER (Danish *Folketing*), Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE (Ukrainian *Verkovna Rada*), Jovan SUBOTIĆ (Montenegrin *Skupština Crne Gore*), Burhan KAYATÜRK (Turkish *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Akos UJHELI (Serbian *Narodna skupština*), Ina COȘERU (Moldovan *Parlamentul Republicii*), Igor ZDRAVKOVSKI (North Macedonian *Sobranie*), Kreshnik ÇOLLAKU (Albanian *Kuvendi i Shqipërisë*), Lord Peter RICKETTS (United Kingdom *House of Lords*), Christian TYBRING-GJEDDE (Norwegian *Storting*).

SESSION II - A POLICY-BASED BUDGET OF THE EU RESPONSIVELY TACKLING THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The second session was co-chaired by Ms Agnieszka POMASKA, Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and Mr Tomasz GRODZKI, Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Poland.

The keynote speech was given by Mr Janusz LEWANDOWSKI, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament and former member of the European Commission responsible for the budget (2009-2014). In his speech, Mr LEWANDOWSKI underlined the importance of a policy based budget, especially in the context of severe natural disasters such as floods, fire and drought. He pointed to the findings of the European Environmental Agency that such extreme weather anomalies are to be expected in the future. He added that the main responsibility lies with the Member States with the view to preparedness. Elaborating on the challenges for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 he identified a 500 billion euro gap in defence spending, and pointed to question marks regarding the future of cohesion policy, enlargement, and the repayment of the loans financing NextGenerationEU. Mr LEWANDOWSKI advocated a flexible post-2027 multiannual budget in order for the EU to be able to respond more effectively to unforeseen natural disasters.

During the ensuing debate, 25 speakers took the floor.

Members stressed the importance of a future budget which continues to address both the effects and causes of climate change, while also pointing to other important budgetary considerations, such as the need to increase defence spending and the importance of continued efficient cohesion policy. Many participants underlined that the next MFF should contain enough flexibility to address major crises. Some chairpersons advocated for the strengthening of civilian protection mechanisms and the reform at the Common Agriculture Policy.

The following speakers took the floor during this debate:



Zoltán TESSELY (Hungarian *Országgyűlés*), Sven SIMON (European Parliament), Jacek WŁOSOWICZ (Polish *Senat*), Peter DE ROOVER (Belgian *Chambre des représentants/Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers*), Anton HOFREITER (German *Bundestag*), Caroline VAN DER PLAS (Dutch *Tweede Kamer*), Giulio TERZI DI SANT'AGATA (Italian *Senato della Repubblica*), Jelena MILOŠ (Croatian *Sabor*), Francisco José CONDE (Spanish *Cortes Generales*), Heikki AUTTO (Finnish *Eduskunta*), Jean-François RAPIN (French *Senate*), Pere Joan PONS (Spanish *Cortes Generales*), Edward ZAMMIT LEWIS (Maltese *Kamra tad-Deputati*), Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE (French *Assemblée nationale*), Vincent BLONDEL (Belgian *Sénat/Senaat*), Matilda ERNKRANS (Swedish *Riksdag*), Rainer ROBRA (German *Bundesrat*), Peeter TALI (Estonian *Riigikogu*), Dimitris KAIRIDIS (Greek *Vouli ton Ellinon*), Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE (Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada*), Burhan KAYATÜRK (Türkiye *Büyük Millet Meclisi*), Jovan SUBOTIĆ (Montenegrin *Skupština Crne Gore*), Ina COȘERU (Moldovan *Parlamentul Republicii*), Aleksandra TOMIC (Serbian *Narodna skupština*), Jale Nur SÜLLÜ (Türkiye *Büyük Millet Meclisi*).

CLOSING SESSION

Mr GRODZKI expressed his thanks to delegations for having taken an active part in the discussions. Concluding, he stated that Europe is a partner in the world, not a servant or a poorer brother, and expressed the belief that historical experiences and current events will mobilize Europe to face contemporary challenges. He emphasized the role of parliamentarians in leading Europe towards an optimistic future. Ms POMASKA invited delegations to the LXXIII COSAC in Warsaw on 8-10 June 2025.