



FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF BELGIUM

## **Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU Brussels, 4 – 5 April 2011**

**Topic: Parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**

### **PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL**

The EU Speakers Conference will take place on 4 and 5 April 2011 in the Belgian Federal Parliament in Brussels.

Following the conclusions of the previous conference (Stockholm, 14-15 May 2011), the Belgian Presidency proposes the following regarding the organization of inter-parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The national Parliaments and the European Parliament are invited to bring forward their remarks to the Belgian Presidency no later than Monday **14 March 2011**.

On the basis of these remarks, the Belgian Presidency will draft a compromise text which it will submit to the EU Speakers Conference.

#### Proposal:

1. An Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is set up. It is composed of delegations of the national Parliaments of the EU Member States and the European Parliament.

2. Each national parliamentary delegation shall consist of four members<sup>1</sup>.
3. The total number of delegates from the European Parliament shall not exceed one third<sup>2</sup> of the members of the Conference<sup>3</sup>.
4. Each national Parliament of a candidate Member State may be represented by an observer.
5. The Conference shall have its seat in the European Parliament in Brussels. Meetings shall be organized twice a year in Brussels or in the country holding the rotating Council Presidency. Extraordinary meetings shall be held when deemed necessary or urgent.
6. The meetings shall jointly be presided over by the national Parliament of the Member State holding the rotating Council Presidency and the European Parliament.
7. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall be invited to the meetings of the Conference in order to set out the outlines and strategies of the common foreign and defence policy of the Union.
8. The Conference may express opinions.
9. The secretariat of the Conference shall be provided by the European Parliament.
10. The Conference shall approve its rules of procedure and working methods on the basis of the aforementioned principles.

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<sup>1</sup> I.e. 108 members representing the parliaments of the 27 Member States.

<sup>2</sup> I.e. 54 members representing the European Parliament.

<sup>3</sup> I.e. a total of 162 members.