

**MINUTES OF THE
COSAC CHAIRPERSONS MEETING
VIENNA,
20 FEBRUARY 2006**

Agenda:

- 1) Opening of proceedings and adoption of Agenda
- 2) The reflection period and priorities of the Austrian Presidency - Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ursula Plassnik
- 3) The next steps for national parliaments' subsidiarity control
- 4) The Lisbon Process - with a focus on the demographic aspects. Introduction by Prof. Wolfgang Lutz, PhD, Austrian Academy of Sciences and IIASA
- 5) Debate on the agenda of the XXXV COSAC (and outcome of the Troika Meeting)
- 6) Any other business

Proceedings of the sitting

20 February 2006:

JOINTLY IN THE CHAIR: Mr Werner FASSLABEND, MP, Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on EU Affairs of the *Nationalrat*, and Mr Gottfried KNEIFEL, MP, Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee of the *Bundesrat*.

1. Opening of proceedings and adoption of Agenda:

The chairmen, Mr FASSLABEND and Mr KNEIFEL, welcomed the delegates and presented the draft agenda. The agenda as shown above was adopted by the chairpersons.

2. The reflection period and priorities of the Austrian Presidency

Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ursula Plassnik presented the Presidency's plans for the debate on the Future of Europe. An exchange of views took place between the chairpersons. Minister Plassnik answered the questions presented by the chairpersons.

3. The next steps for national parliaments' subsidiarity control

The Chairman presented the outcome of the troika meeting and the troika's proposal to carry out a subsidiarity check of the two most frequently mentioned legislative proposals. An exchange of views took place. The chairpersons agreed that the check should be carried out on:

- Proposal for a Regulation on the applicable law and jurisdiction in divorce matters (2005/JSL/187); and
- Proposal for the full accomplishment of the Internal Market for Postal Services (2006/MARKT/006).

The Chairman informed delegations that the Austrian Parliament had received a request from the European Cooperation Organisations committee of the Senate, States-General, the Netherlands, regarding public debates in the Council on the proposals designated for the subsidiarity and proportionality check. The Troika had supported the proposal from the Dutch Senate and agreed that the Austrian Presidency should write to the President of the Council accordingly. The chairpersons supported the Dutch initiative.

4. Debate on the agenda of the XXXV COSAC

The Chairman presented the draft Agenda for the XXXV COSAC meeting to be held on the 22 and 23 May in Vienna. The draft Agenda as annexed to these minutes was taken note of. The Chairman informed delegations that the Troika has agreed that the Austrian Presidency should invite representatives from COSAP and from the Parliament of Ukraine as special guests to the XXXV COSAC.

5. The Lisbon Process - with a focus on the demographic aspects.

The COSAC Chairpersons heard an introduction by Professor Wolfgang Lutz from the Austrian Academy of Sciences and IIASA¹. An exchange of views took place. Questions from the Chairpersons were also answered by Professor Alexia Prskawetz from the Austrian Academy of Sciences and IIASA.

The Chairman thanked delegates for their contributions and closed the meeting.

¹ The Power Point presentation of Professor Lutz is available on the COSAC website among other meeting documents.