



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Mr Benediktas Juodka
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas)

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Dear Mr Juodka,

Pursuant to the request in your letter dated 26 June 2013, I inform you on behalf of the delegation of the Dutch Parliament as follows.

The Dutch representative to the Ad Hoc Review Committee will be Ms Angelien Eijsink (Chair of the standing committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and Head of Delegation).

Concerning the review of the Rules of Procedure and the amendments that have been submitted in the augural meeting in Cyprus, the delegation wants to reiterate the official position of both Houses of the Dutch Parliament (as also had been expressed in its letter of 22 December 2011 to the Polish EU-Presidency Parliament):

1. 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).
2. 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).
3. 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.

The delegation urges to state that it is not authorized to consent with proposals that contravene the official position of the Dutch Parliament; such proposals have to be discussed in both Houses of the Dutch Parliament beforehand.



As to the other matters and activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in the context of the review of the Rules of Procedures, the delegation expresses the following comments and suggestions:

4. 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.
5. 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.e. Heads of Delegation) and their clerks, in addition to the network of parliaments' permanent representatives in Brussels.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 suggested bi-annual 'transfer report'.

Wishing you every success in your preparations of the conference and looking forward to a fruitful exchange of views in the Ad Hoc Review Committee,

Yours sincerely,

Angelien Eijsink

Chair of the standing committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives of the Dutch Parliament
Head of Delegation to the CFSP/CSDP Conference