

CONCLUSIONS OF THE XLVIII COSAC

Nicosia, 14 – 16 October 2012

1. Bi-annual Report

COSAC welcomes the 18th Bi-annual Report prepared by the COSAC Secretariat and warmly thanks the Secretariat for its excellent work. The Report provides comprehensive and useful information on the relations between the European institutions and national Parliaments, on the role of parliaments regarding the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance, and on the parliaments' involvement in examining the proposed EU legislation on Trans-European Energy Infrastructure and the EU Communication on the Single Market Governance.

2. Subsidiarity and proportionality

2.1 COSAC notes that almost all national Parliaments take the principle of proportionality into consideration when examining draft legislative acts, even though in many cases it is not considered as a principle of an equal status to the subsidiarity principle under the Lisbon Treaty. Even though national parliaments are divided over the issue whether proportionality is an inextricable component of the subsidiarity principle, the majority of national Parliaments are of the opinion that a subsidiarity control is not effective enough if a proportionality check of the proposal at hand is not conducted.

2.2 COSAC takes particular interest in a number of proposals submitted by national Parliaments stressing the need for a more uniform interpretation of what constitutes a breach of the subsidiarity principle and the further clarification of the methodology used to perform subsidiarity checks. Given the different approaches among Parliaments regarding the way subsidiarity criteria are applied in practice, COSAC encourages Parliaments to exchange information regarding their relevant practices, in order to make subsidiarity control more effective, through the better understanding of the processes utilised by each national Parliament. Furthermore, a slight majority of national Parliaments (20-17) are in favour of formally laying down or establishing specific guidelines regarding the scope and content of reasoned opinions.

3. Political dialogue

3.1 COSAC recognises the importance of the political dialogue as a confidence building tool among the citizens and the Union and it welcomes the suggestion expressed by national Parliaments with regard to its further enhancement. COSAC, therefore, encourages national Parliaments to make further efforts towards the strengthening of cooperation in the framework of the political dialogue as documented in the 18th Bi-annual Report.

3.2 COSAC supports closer cooperation between national Parliaments to discuss proposals that are of particular concern and for which a large number of reasoned opinions were issued, even though the threshold set out under the Lisbon Treaty for reconsideration on the part of the Commission was not met.

4. The Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union and the role of Parliaments

4.1 COSAC takes note of the provisions of Article 13 of the Treaty on the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic Monetary Union, reiterating the importance of reinforcing interparliamentary cooperation between the European Parliament and national Parliaments in the field of economic governance and stresses that it applies to all parliaments of the EU.

4.2. COSAC has initiated a dialogue and exchanged views on the way that this cooperation could be optimized, examining the form that this reinforced cooperation should take. It, therefore, expressed the view that this dialogue should be continued in the future.

