



**Amendments to the Contribution of the LX COSAC
initiated by the German Bundestag
and partly supported by the German Bundesrat
with reference to the 1st draft as of 6 November 2018**

1. State of play of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU

1. – Security and the fight against illegal migration

1.1. COSAC recalls the need for a comprehensive EU approach to migration, which ensures coherence between internal and external policies, encompasses all migration routes and is based on the principles and values on which the EU is built. A long-term and effective response to the human, social and political challenges of irregular migration and forced displacement demands enhanced cooperation with the countries of origin and transit as part of a broader partnership in order to tackle the root causes of these phenomena. ***COSAC also stresses the need for a Common European Asylum System based on a fair balance between responsibility and solidarity.***

The amendment is consistent with the idea of a comprehensive EU approach to migration mentioned in the first sentence of the paragraph.

This amendment is supported by the German Bundesrat.

(...)

2. – Securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation

(...)

3. – Western Balkans / ~~South-Eastern Europe~~ and EU neighbourhood

(...)

3.4. COSAC calls on the Western Balkan / South Eastern European partners to strengthen their resilience to destabilising foreign interferences and disinformation, **especially from Russia**, and to lock in their strategic choices by progressively and fully aligning with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.

3.5. COSAC emphasizes with view to the Eastern partnership the need to implement the Minsk agreements and to uphold the sanctions against Russia.

3.6. PESCO as an integral part of the Common Security and Defence Policy aims at contributing to stability and security in the geographical Context of the European Union. COSAC values this cooperation as an instrument to strengthen the European pillar within the framework of NATO.

4. Brexit – current state

4.1. COSAC acknowledges that the EU27 leaders reaffirmed at the European Council (Art. 50) meeting on 17 October 2018 their full confidence in Michel Barnier as the Union Chief Negotiator and their determination to stay united. **COSAC stresses that the integrity of the internal market and the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union about its principles has to be preserved.** Despite intensive negotiations, not enough progress has been achieved yet.

4.1.a COSAC stresses that the Good Friday Agreement must be protected unconditionally by any negotiation result to provide citizens with a sustainable solution. COSAC emphasizes the need for solidarity towards Ireland.

This amendment (4.1.a) is supported by the German Bundesrat.

(...)

5. Climate policy and Energy Union

(...)

5.5. COSAC notes that a number of Member States rely on a single energy supplier challenging the European Union - the world's biggest importer of energy. COSAC supports all efforts to ~~maximise the European Union's use of indigenous sources of energy~~, **secure energy supply and promotes diversification of energy sources.** COSAC points out that measures taken to protect the environment and increase the production of renewable energy

are also contributing to the European Union's competitiveness. In this context, COSAC highlights the importance of research and development. Furthermore, COSAC supports the promotion of new energy technologies and innovative solutions.

The amendments stress the need for energy security and diversification of energy sources.

This amendment is supported by the German Bundesrat.

5.6. **Energy must remain affordable for citizens and businesses.** While advocating plans leading to the protection of the climate and the environment COSAC underlines that a sustainable future for industry and business and fair competition must be ensured. Affordability of energy and the competitiveness of European industry need to be kept in mind. The specific needs of energy-intensive industries must be taken into account.

The amendment shall stress the third component – the citizens – that relies on affordable energy.

This amendment is supported by the German Bundesrat.

6. A transparent European Union closer to its citizens in light of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament

(...)

6.5. COSAC considers the Report of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently" and the Communication from the European Commission "The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: Strengthening their role in the EU's policymaking" a good basis for further discussions. These discussions should cover, inter alia, the possible introduction of a twelve week deadline for the submission of reasoned opinions within the framework of the subsidiarity control mechanism as well as the question of providing national Parliaments with the additional opportunity to express their views about proportionality and the legal basis of a proposed legislation in reasoned opinions, taking into account that certain modifications may require Treaty changes. COSAC reiterates that it appreciates the so called "green card" mechanism as **~~a possible extension~~ an integral part** of the political dialogue between the European Commission and the national Parliaments.