

Courtesy translation

Parliament of the Republic of Austria
Mr Reinhold LOPATKA
Chairman of the Permanent EU Subcommittee
of the National Council
Dr. Karl Renner-Ring 3

AT - 1017 Vienna

AA/FJ/ODD/CaL

Namur,

Mr President,

Article 3.1. of the COSAC rules states that “*each national parliament shall be represented by up to six members of its body/bodies specialised in EU affairs*”.

The Belgian delegation to COSAC is currently composed of three senators and three members of the Chamber of Representatives parliament.

However, the Belgian federal model provides that the parliaments of the Belgian federated entities exercise their own competences at the international level under the principle *in foro interno in foro externo*.

Furthermore, in declaration No. 51 of the Kingdom of Belgium on national parliaments annexed to the Treaty of Lisbon, Belgium states that, by virtue of its constitutional law, both the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate of the Federal Parliament and the parliamentary assemblies of the Communities and Regions act, according to the powers exercised by the Union, as components of the national parliamentary system or chambers of the national Parliament.

The Walloon Parliament is the legislative assembly of the Walloon Region (one of the three regions of the country). It is composed of 75 deputies and exists since 1980. Following the sixth reform of the Belgian state, the Walloon Region has many powers, particularly in the fields of employment and training, town and country planning, energy, agriculture, environment, economy, housing, health, public works and transport, tourism and science policy.

Most of these matters are directly affected by European legislation.

An Intra-Belgian consultation aimed at modifying the composition of the Belgian delegation within COSAC did not succeed because of resistance from the federal Parliament that refused to adapt to the Belgian institutional evolution.

Therefore, the Walloon Parliament is addressing the Presidency of COSAC to ensure compliance with Declaration No. 51 of the Lisbon Treaty allowing the parliaments of the Belgian federated entities to act in accordance with the powers exercised by the Union, as components of the national system or chambers of the national Parliament within COSAC.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

André ANTOINE