



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Nicosia, 22 October 2018

Dr Reinhold Lopatka,
Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee
on EU Affairs of the National Council,
Vienna,

and

Mr Christian Buchmann,
Chairman of the EU Committee of the Federal Council,
Vienna.

Dear Mr Lopatka and Mr Buchmann,

I am writing to you with regard to the letter communicated to the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union, on the 8th October, by Mr Christian Vigenin, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds, informing us on his proposal put forward for amending the COSAC Rules of Procedure in order to include as observers to all COSAC meetings representatives of Parliaments of EU potential candidate countries, EFTA and Eastern Partnership countries.

Although I will unfortunately not be able to participate to the forthcoming COSAC Plenary meeting, I would like to inform you that the Cyprus delegation to COSAC is against such an amendment of the Rules of Procedure for the following reasons:

-All COSAC meetings will become extremely big in size to the point where time allocated per delegate will be even more limited. The issue of speaking time left for delegates, quite often dropping to one minute, has been raised on numerous occasions in the past and is considered to be insufficient should we wish to exchange our opinions in a constructive manner in the framework of our meetings. In addition, costs for extra arrangements by host Parliaments will also increase.

-Further to the above and also due to the inclusion of Kosovo in the category of potential candidate countries, and as Kosovo is an entity that is not recognized by the



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Republic of Cyprus, as well as four other EU member states, the Cyprus delegation to COSAC, will be against any amendment of the COSAC Rules of Procedure. I am kindly reminding you that during the COSAC Chairpersons meeting, on the 21st-22nd January 2018, in Sofia, the Cyprus delegate expressed his objection to the presence of a Kosovo delegation at the meeting. Also, during the 13th IPC on CFSP/CSDP in Vienna, on the 11th and 12th October 2018, the Cyprus delegation discontinued its participation to the Conference, due to the presence of a Kosovo delegation, which was against the Rules of Procedures of the said Parliamentary Conference. A relevant letter to the Presidents of the two Chambers of the Austrian Parliament and copied to the President of the European Parliament and the Presidents of National Parliaments of the EU, has been sent by the President of the Cyprus House of Representatives, drawing their attention to the necessity for Rules of Procedures of the Interparliamentary Conferences to be respected by EU Presidencies.

Hoping that the matter will be resolved at the forthcoming COSAC meeting in Vienna, I would like to convey my best wishes for a fruitful and successful COSAC Plenary meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Yiorgos Lillikas, MP,
Chairman of the House Standing Committee
on Foreign and European Affairs.