

Yiannakis L. Omirou
President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus
House of Representatives
1402 Nicosia
Cyprus

20 August 2012

Dear Mr Omirou

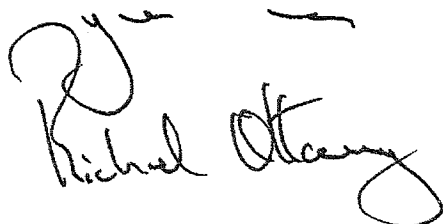
Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and
the Common Security and Defence Policy: Draft Rules of Procedure

We write with regard to the draft rules of procedure which you circulated on 24 July, and to which you invited amendments by Friday 24 August.

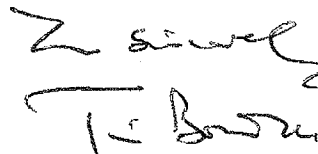
Amendments tabled jointly by the two Houses of the UK Parliament are accordingly appended to this letter. We have assembled them in a table, showing the intended effect on the Presidency text and providing an explanation of the purpose of each amendment.

The overarching purpose of the amendments is to ensure that nothing in the rules of procedure reopens or in any way undermines the agreement which was reached after some difficulty at the EU Speakers' Conference in Warsaw on 20-21 April 2012 and Brussels on 4-5 April 2011.

We wish you every success with the first conference and are delighted that, under the auspices of the Warsaw and Brussels agreements, we are now in a position to move to the important work of scrutinising the substance of CFSP and CSDP.



RICHARD OTTAWAY MP
Chairman
Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons



LORD BOSWELL OF AYNHO
Chairman
European Union Committee
House of Lords

Proposed list of amendments - on behalf of the delegations from the UK House of Commons and House of Lords

Number	Amendment	Effect on Presidency Text	Explanation of amendment
1	At end of second paragraph of preamble, after "Union" leave out the words ", notably its Article 9".	Having regard to Protocol 1 of the Lisbon Treaty on the role of national parliaments in the European Union, notably its Article 9 .	The text should reflect the Speakers Conference Conclusions. Either Article 10 should also be cited or neither Article.
2	At beginning of the third paragraph of the preamble, leave out "Having regard to" and insert "In accordance with".	Having regard to In accordance with the decisions of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union (EU) Parliaments...	The rules are subject to the Speakers Conference Conclusions, so we suggest stronger wording to clarify this.
3	In paragraph 1.2, line 1, after "shall" leave out "foster political consensus in the area " and insert "provide a forum for the oversight". After "CSDP," leave out ""by"	The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall foster political consensus in the area provide a forum for the oversight of CFSP and CSDP, by promoting more united, consistent and effective action...	We do not feel that the conference has to produce consensus, its real role is to provide a forum for the exchange of information and best practice in the oversight of CFSP and CSDP. The suggested amendment would bring the text into line with paragraph 3 of the 2011 Speakers Conference conclusions.

4	In paragraph 1.3, line 1, after "Conference", leave out "shall consist of Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees and therefore" and insert "is composed of delegations of the national Parliaments of the EU Member States and the European Parliament. The Conference"	The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall consist of Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees and therefore is composed of delegations of the national Parliaments of the EU Member States and the European Parliament. The Conference replaces the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and the Conference of Defence Affairs Committee Chairpersons (CODACC).	As it stands, the Presidency text contradicts the Speakers' Conference Conclusions. The amendment would simply import the Speakers' Conference language.
5	In paragraph 2.1.a, at end insert "Each of the EU Parliaments autonomously takes decisions on the composition of its delegation."	National Parliaments are represented by six (6) Members of Parliament each. In case of a national Parliaments consisting of two Chambers, the number of Members of its delegations shall be allocated according to their internal agreement. <i>Each of the EU Parliaments autonomously takes decisions on the composition of its delegation.</i>	This amendment better reflects the language of the Warsaw conclusions.
6	In paragraph 2.3.b, line 1, after "invite" leave out ", in close cooperation with the European Parliament,"	The Presidency Parliament may invite, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, special guests and specialists to address the meetings on matters relating to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference .	The Presidency text goes beyond the Warsaw Conclusions.
7	In paragraph 3.2, line 1, after "Presidency" leave out ", in close cooperation with the European Parliament,".	The Presidency, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, shall put forward a draft agenda for the meeting.	The Presidency text goes beyond the Warsaw Conclusions.

8	In paragraph 5.1, at end leave out the words "For meetings, which take place at the European Parliament, all languages will be provided and the costs will be borne by the European Parliament."	The working languages of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation from and into these languages, as well as from and into the language of the Presidency Member State shall be provided by the host parliament. <i>For meetings, which take place at the European Parliament, all languages will be provided and the costs will be borne by the European Parliament.</i>	There seems no reason for the EP to be singled out when 5.2 already provides for additional languages to be provided.
9	In paragraph 7.3, line 4, after "Commission", insert "and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy"	Once the conclusions have been adopted, the Presidency Parliament shall communicate the final texts in English and French, each of these texts being equally authentic, to all delegations, to the Presidents of national Parliaments and the European Parliament and to the Presidents of the Council and the Commission <i>and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy</i> , for their information.	We feel these conclusions might usefully be sent to the HRVP.
10	In paragraph 8.2, line 2 after "consensus" insert "; and must be in accordance with the framework set by the Speakers conferences"	Any amendments, which the delegations of national Parliaments and the European Parliament may propose to the Rules of Procedure, are subject to a decision by consensus, <i>and must be in accordance with the framework set by the Speakers conferences.</i>	This change would ensure any changes to the rules of procedure remain consistent with the conclusions of the Speakers conferences.

11	<p>Leave out Article 9, ("The Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments shall review the Rules of Procedure and working methods, which are based on the relevant decisions of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, and the functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference two years after its first meeting.") and insert a new third paragraph to the preamble</p> <p>"Endorsing the recommendation of the Conference of Speakers meeting in Warsaw in April 2012 that the Conference of Speakers should conduct a review of arrangements for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference after two years from its first meeting,"</p>	<p>Article 9 is deleted.</p> <p>New third paragraph to the preamble as an alternative:</p> <p><i>Endorsing the recommendation of the Conference of Speakers meeting in Warsaw in April 2012 that the Conference of Speakers should conduct a review of arrangements for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference after two years from its first meeting,</i></p>	<p>This change is designed to show that amendments to the rules of procedure are a separate exercise, conducted by the Conference itself, from an overall review of the arrangements for CFSP and CSDP oversight by the Speakers Conference which is a matter for that conference. It should not be a part of the rules of procedure of this conference.</p>
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These amendments are tabled on behalf of the competent committees of the UK House of Commons and House of Lords.

20 August 2012