

DRAFT CONTRIBUTION OF COSAC

The COSAC (Chairpersons)/Messrs....

1. Regrets that the European Council of 16 and 17 June did not succeed in reaching an agreement on the financial prospects for the period 2007 – 2013.
2. Underlines the appalling effects of this failure on the whole European Union and especially on the new member States that will in any case bear the consequences of a delay in the programming of structural funds.
3. Expresses the wish of a fast and strong relaunch of the European integration process. It would indeed be unacceptable that the new member States have joined a second-rate Union, only defined as a free-trade area.
4. To this end, insists upon the necessity of refounding the Union on peace, solidarity, sustainable economic and social development objectives and entirely endorses the conclusions of the Summit about starting a dialogue on the future of the European Union at the level of the institutions as well as in the member States themselves.
5. Calls on the Heads of State and government to start this debate immediately with their parliament, the civil society, the social partners, but also to overcome the national divisions and to reach an agreement on the future financing of the Union as quickly as possible. This agreement should foresee financial means in accordance with the European Union's objectives.
6. Is of the opinion that the European Parliament together with the national parliaments should join forces in order to relaunch the integration process and report to the COSAC on the continuation of the ratification process.
7. Decides to send these conclusions to the Council's, Commission's and European Parliament's Presidents.

Herman De Croo
President of the Belgian House
of Representatives

President of the Federal Advisory
Committee on European Affairs