



SUMMARY OF THE XLIII COSAC **MADRID, 31 MAY-1 JUNE 2010**

The XLIII COSAC was held in the *Sala Ernst Lluch* of the *Congreso de los Diputados* in Madrid, on 31 May-1 June 2010. The meeting was opened by Mr José BONO MARTÍNEZ, Speaker of the Spanish *Congreso de los Diputados*, and chaired by Mr Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE, Chair of the *Cortes Generales* Joint Committee for the European Union. The Spanish Prime Minister, Mr José Luis RODRÍGUEZ ZAPATERO, intervened also in the opening session, defining the role of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, whose main objectives were the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon and the strengthening of the joint actions towards European economic governance.

In the ensuing debate, several topics were raised, such as the economic crisis and the measures being taken by the Council, especially in the context of the EUROPE 2020 Strategy; the institutional scheme of the EU; the European citizen's initiative; the energy policies in the EU and the problems which FRONTEX entails.

The XLIII COSAC adopted the 13th Bi-annual Report, which contains two Chapters, *The implementation of the new powers of national Parliaments after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon*, and *The future role of COSAC*. Both subjects were debated during the meeting.

The conclusions of the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the European Union were presented by Mr Per WESTERBERG, Speaker of the Swedish *Riksdag*, as they dealt basically with the same main issues as the XLIII COSAC, with a special focus on interparliamentary cooperation.

The meeting took place in a period of serious challenges for the European Union due to the economic and financial crisis. Accordingly, the presentation made by Mr Maros SEFCOVIC, Vice-President of the European Commission, exposed the priorities of the Commission focusing on the economic issues, as the EUROPE 2020 Strategy and the EU budget review.

The present model for relations between the national Parliaments and the European Parliament was dealt with by four key speakers: Mr Elmar BROK, Member of the European Parliament; Mr José María GIL-ROBLES Y GIL-DELGADO, former President of the European Parliament; Mr Vitalino CANAS, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Portuguese Parliament; and Ms Ankie BROEKERS-KNOL, Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee for European Co-operation Organisations of the Dutch *Eerste Kamer*. These interventions were followed by a lively debate on interparliamentary cooperation, where ideas such as the proposal of an annual parliamentary debate on the State of the EU to be held simultaneously in all national Parliaments, were raised.

The XLIII COSAC meeting endorsed by consensus a contribution, which dealt with topics such as:

- The economic crisis, after the measures agreed for the financial stabilisation of Greece;
- The Climate challenge – and the preparation for the Cancun Summit;
- The institutional framework, after the appointment of Mr Herman VAN ROMPUY as President of the European Council, and of Baroness Catherine Ashton as High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission;
- The EU institutional balance, the use of inter institutional agreements between the European Parliament and the European Commission,
- Regional strategies, as the Union for the Mediterranean, the relationship between the European Union and Latin America and the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy.