



## Staten-Generaal

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*Date* 22 december 2011  
*Subject* Response to your proposal as by your letter of 15 November 2011  
*Reference* 149681.01u

Dear Ms Kopacz, dear Mr Borusewicz,

On behalf of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the States-General of the Netherlands, we would like to express our gratitude for your efforts to reach a compromise on the establishment of an Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defence Policy. We would like to thank you for the constructive proposal that was circulated in your letter of 15 November 2011. We share with you the opinion that convening this conference is a matter of urgency, in order to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the activities of the EU and its member states within this domain.

We are pleased to be able to inform you of the position of the States-General of the Netherlands regarding your compromise proposal. Both Houses share the view that, as a matter of principle, the relative size of the delegations from national parliaments and that of the European Parliament should reflect the intergovernmental nature of the area of European Security and Defence. In the interest of effective cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament, to which the States-General attach great importance and which they believe to be among the key objectives of the Lisbon Treaty, the Senate and the House of Representatives will, however, fully support your proposal.

We would like to take this opportunity to further clarify our position regarding the proposed composition of the delegations on two points. Firstly, we understand the provision of four members and two alternate members for national parliaments to mean that delegations will consist of six participating members. All of these members are permitted to request the floor, yet only four have voting rights. Secondly, we understand that the delegation of the European Parliament will consist of sixteen members, with no alternate members. Lastly, we presume that Parliaments/Chambers are free to determine the composition of their delegation from conference to conference.

On a final note, we would like to underline that the conclusions of the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union of 4 and 5 April in Brussels were adopted by consensus. As



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far as the States-General are concerned, a possible reopening of the debate on the other aspects of the organisation of the Interparliamentary Conference would not be conducive to its expeditious establishment.

We are confident that your efforts to finalise a compromise on the establishment of the Interparliamentary Conference will bear fruit and that we can reach full agreement on this issue during our meeting in Warsaw in April of 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. G.J. de Graaf  
President of the Dutch Senate  
of the States General

Gerdi A. Verbeet  
President of the House of Representatives  
of the States General