

CONCLUSIONS
of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the
Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy
Pafos, 9-10 September 2012

Introductory remarks

1. The inaugural Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, hereinafter referred to as "The Inter-Parliamentary Conference", was held in Paphos, on 9-10 September 2012, upon the invitation of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, in the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU, in accordance with the Decisions of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, at its Meetings in Brussels, on 4-5 April 2011 and in Warsaw, on 20-21 April 2012.
2. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference adopted its Rules of Procedure. All amendments submitted by national Parliaments and not taken on board will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee to be established by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in order to evaluate these proposals and present recommendations to the Speaker's Conference of the EU, within eighteen (18) months from the first meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. The incoming Irish Presidency is asked to submit to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference a proposal on the composition of the review committee.
3. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference was attended by delegations of the national Parliaments of the twenty seven (27) EU Member States and the European Parliament, as well as by delegations of national Parliaments of EU candidate countries and of the non -EU NATO Members, as observers.
4. The High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Catherine Ashton, attended the Meeting to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of the CFSP and CSDP. The High Representative's address was followed by a fruitful debate regarding current developments in these areas.
5. A session of the Meeting was devoted to "The EU and the Arab Spring". The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Dr Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, as well as the EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean, Mr Bernadino León, addressed the session. On this occasion, Representatives of countries of the Middle East and North Africa were invited, as special guests, to attend the Inaugural Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. Delegations of the Parliaments of Jordan and Lebanon attended this Session. Discussions focused on current developments regarding the democratic transition process in countries of the Southern Mediterranean, as a result of the Arab Spring, including the ongoing crisis in Syria.
6. Current foreign policy issues during the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU were presented by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Demetris Eliades.

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference adopted the following conclusions:

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

- A. *Having regard to and in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations and International Law,*
- B. *Having regard to Protocol 1 of the Lisbon Treaty on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union,*
- C. *Aware of the new dynamic and expectations for a more effective and coherent EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, resulting from the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty and conscious of the need to jointly address the growing global challenges to the security and economic prosperity of the Union's citizens,*
- D. *Having regard to the fact that the Union's CFSP and CSDP involve the contribution of a variety of actors and policies at EU and national level,*
- E. *Conscious of the fact that the multi-layered nature of the CFSP and CSDP calls for the deepening of cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament, which voice the aspirations and expectations of the EU citizens, in full respect of the rights and duties of the national parliaments and the European Parliament, at their respective level,*
- F. *Aware of the need, in respect of the EU CFSP and CSDP, to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of the political and budgetary decisions taken at national and European level,*
- G. *Noting the fact that the EU collaborates with other international organisations, such as NATO, UN and OSCE, to assure a comprehensive, coherent and effective approach concerning security and peace enhancements,*
- H. *Cognisant of the fact that this policy area requires, not only adequate EU resources, but also the active contribution and support of EU Member States and a strong impulse towards a better coordination of their policies, and conscious that this also includes the progressive development of a common defence policy,*
- I. *Welcoming the holding of fair and free elections in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya; alarmed by the continuing bloodshed in Syria and welcoming the Council Conclusions, adopted on 23 July 2012,*

1. Resolves to enhance the democratic engagement in the Union's CFSP and CSDP by promoting a more systematic, regular and timely exchange of information on the different aspects and implications of the CFSP and CSDP, at national and European level;
2. Is determined, by means of this enhanced dialogue and exchange of information, to address the decision-making, capacity-building and operational weaknesses of the CFSP and CSDP, so as to make it more effective and efficient in addressing our common challenges and pursuing our common goals;
3. Will work to this effect in close cooperation with the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who shall be invited to all Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, and will support her *and any* efforts towards developing a common *and coherent* approach and a common *and coherent* response to current foreign policy challenges;
4. Believes that the strengthening of the EU CFSP entails a regular review of the Union's ongoing CSDP missions, with a view to improving their effectiveness and overall coherence with both Member States' bilateral policies and the Union's overall external action, in full respect of each others' prerogatives;
5. Considers that the role of the European Defence Agency, as the inter-face of the EU and Member States' civilian and military capacity-building initiatives, should also be the subject of regular parliamentary review;
6. Considers, furthermore, that the Union's credibility, as a global provider of security, peace and prosperity and as a promoter of democratic values, depends on its capacity to provide incentives and support to the democratic processes in its neighbourhood;
7. Is convinced that Parliaments have a crucial role in promoting democratic values and accountable systems of good governance and emphasizes, therefore, the need for an enhanced role of parliaments, particularly in supporting the democratic transitions in its Southern and Eastern neighbourhood;
8. Takes the view that this requires, inter alia, enhanced monitoring of the democratic processes in the Union's Southern and Eastern neighbourhood and coordination, through joint initiatives and improved exchange of information, as well as parliamentary activities in support to these countries;
9. Requests the Presidency to develop proposals to this effect before the next Inter-Parliamentary Conference Meeting;
10. Asks the Presidency to forward these Conclusions to the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Council and the European Commission.