Resolution on the European Parliament's approach to implementing Articles 9 and 10 of Protocol 1 to the Lisbon Treaty as regards parliamentary cooperation in the field of CFSP /CSDP

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the European Parliament's approach to implementing Articles 9 and 10 of Protocol 1 to the Lisbon Treaty as regards parliamentary cooperation in the field of CFSP/CSDP. It notes that Article 9 of Protocol 1 stipulates that the organisation and promotion of any form of effective and regular interparliamentary cooperation must be determined jointly by the European Parliament and national parliaments, and recalls that the European Parliament is a source of democratic legitimacy for the CFSP and the CSDP, over which it exercises political scrutiny. The European Parliament co-decides with the Council on the EU budget for external action, including the budget for CFSP and CSDP civilian missions and the administrative costs arising from EU military coordination. It is regularly consulted on the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP and its consent is required in order to translate EU strategies into laws and to conclude international agreements, including agreements relating mainly to the CFSP, the one exception being agreements relating solely to the CFSP.

Parliament is convinced at the same time that strengthened interparliamentary cooperation in the area of CFSP and CSDP would reinforce parliamentary influence over the political choices made by the EU and its States, owing to the European Parliament's responsibilities for the common policies of the Union, including the CFSP/CSDP, and to the prerogatives each national parliament enjoys in national security and defence policy decisions. It regrets the lack of agreement at the EU Speakers' Conference of 4 and 5 April 2011 and looks forward to supporting the efforts of the Polish Presidency to reach an agreement between the European Parliament and national parliaments on new forms of interparliamentary cooperation in this field.

It confirms its position as follows:

- that, in accordance with Article 9 of Protocol 1 of the Lisbon Treaty, ‘the European Parliament and national Parliaments shall together determine the organisation and promotion of effective and regular interparliamentary cooperation within the Union’, in order to promote co-ownership in the organisation and exercise of effective and regular interparliamentary cooperation;
- that its own representation in any new form of interparliamentary cooperation should be of a scale which reflects the range and importance of its role in scrutinising CFSP/CSDP, recognises the common European nature of such policies and satisfies the need to reflect the political and geographic pluralism of the House;
- that, in the pursuit of added value as well as in order to contain costs, the Secretariat and premises of the European Parliament are in principle available to support the organisation and hosting of the interparliamentary meetings;
- that the conclusions of the interparliamentary meetings shall not be binding on the participating parties.