



Proposal regarding revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC

This document contains proposals for two revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC. One of the proposals seeks to revise Article 7.5 so that contributions and amendments can be adopted by a two-thirds majority. The other proposal seeks to revise Article 10.1 by codifying the practice for the adoption of conclusions so that it follows the same procedure as the adoption of contributions.

Background and Purpose

The Treaty of Lisbon empowers COSAC to submit any contribution it deems appropriate for the attention of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, cf. the Protocol on the Role of the National Parliaments of the European Union (Art. 10). The procedure for the adoption of contributions within COSAC is established by Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC. These were last updated at the 45th Plenary Meeting of the COSAC on 29–31 May 2011 in Budapest and entered into force on the day of their publication in the Official Journal of the European Union on 4 August 2011.

Prior to the Meeting of the COSAC Chairs in Copenhagen on 4 July 2025, the Danish Presidency received a letter from Mr. Pieyre-Alexandre Anglade, Chair of the French National Assembly's European Affairs Committee, and Mr. Jean-Francois Rapin, Chair of the French Senate's European Affairs Committee. In the letter, the chairs proposed revising Art. 7.5 so that amendments to contributions from COSAC can be adopted by a two-thirds majority instead of a three-quarters majority as required today. The letter has been distributed among the delegations and published on ipex.eu ¹.

During the COSAC Chairs Meeting on 4 July the Danish Presidency and the representative of the Italian Senate supported the French proposal². In recent years, there have been a number of votes on proposed amendments to

¹On 11 September 2025, the Danish Presidency also received a letter from Mr. Vincent Blondel, Speaker of the Belgian Senate and Chair of the Senate Delegation to the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs, expressing his support for the French proposal. This letter has also been distributed to the delegations and published on ipex.eu.

² Minutes of the meeting are published on ipex.eu and a videorecording is available on par-leu2025.dk.



contributions from COSAC and, in practice, it has been difficult even for a broad majority to have amendments to the Presidency's draft adopted. The Presidency therefore proposes reducing the threshold so that amendments can be adopted by a two-thirds majority. This will make it easier to adopt proposed amendments while still requiring a broad majority. The proposed revision to the Rules of Procedure does not change the fact that the majority must also constitute at least half of all possible votes.

According to Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC, COSAC can adopt and submit conclusions to the national parliaments, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. The Rules of Procedure do not describe a concrete procedure for the adoption of draft conclusions and amendments thereto, however the established practice is that they are treated and adopted via the same procedure as for contributions. The Presidency therefore proposes the codification of this practice.

Proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC

- Proposed new text is written in **bold**. Text that we propose be removed is ~~stricken out~~.

1. Proposed revision of Art. 7.5 on the adoption of contributions

Existing text in Article 7.5

7.5 In general COSAC shall seek to adopt contributions by broad consensus. If this is not possible, contributions shall be adopted with a qualified majority of at least 3/4 of the votes cast. The majority of 3/4 of the votes cast must at the same time constitute at least half of all votes.

Proposal for **new** text in Article 7.5

7.5 In general COSAC shall seek to adopt contributions by broad consensus. If this is not possible, contributions shall be adopted with a qualified majority of at least **2/3** ~~3/4~~ of the votes cast. The majority of **2/3** ~~3/4~~ of the votes cast must at the same time constitute at least half of all votes.



Remarks

The purpose of this revision is to reduce the threshold for adopting contributions and amendments to contributions from COSAC to a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, thus making it easier to adopt contributions and amendments to contributions. At present, the Rules of Procedure require a three-quarters majority of the votes cast.

Art. 7 establishes the procedure for the adoption of contributions from COSAC. Among other things, it states that the final draft of a contribution is to be prepared at the preparatory meeting of the Chairpersons and that it shall embrace the observations and remarks of all delegations, including any possible declarations concerning the vote.

Article 7.5 states that COSAC shall seek to adopt contributions by broad consensus and that, when this is not possible, contributions shall be adopted with a qualified majority of at least 3/4 of the votes cast, which at the same time must also constitute at least half of all votes. The Presidency interprets this as meaning at least half of all possible voting parliaments/chambers in COSAC. This double majority is intended to ensure that draft contributions and amendments to contributions are adopted on the basis of broad representation.

The proposed revision does not change the fact that the two-thirds majority must also constitute at least half of all possible votes. According to Art. 7.6, each delegation has two votes. The Presidency interprets this to mean that when there are 28 delegations in COSAC (the number of national parliaments across the EU Member States plus the European Parliament), then the majority of at least three-quarters must also constitute at least 28 votes.

2. Proposed revision of Art. 10.1 on the adoption of conclusions and communiqués

Existing text in Article 10.1

10.1 If COSAC decides to adopt conclusions or issue a communiqué, a draft shall be drawn up by the Presidential Troika.

Proposal for **new** text in Article 10.1

10.1 If COSAC decides to adopt conclusions or issue a communiqué, a draft shall be drawn up by the Presidential Troika. **Draft conclusions and communiqués are adopted in accordance with the same**



procedure that applies for the adoption of contributions from COSAC; cf. Art. 7.4–6.

Remarks

The purpose of this proposed revision is to codify the adoption of conclusions so that, in accordance with the already established practice, they follow the procedure for adopting contributions from COSAC.

Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure concerns COSAC's ability to adopt conclusions and communiqués. However, there is no formally described process for the adoption of conclusions and any votes on conclusions or amendments thereto, even though the established practice is to follow the same procedure that is used for the adoption of contributions from COSAC.

3. Entry into Force

It is proposed that the revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC enter into force on the day in which they are published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Procedure for revising the Rules of Procedure

Revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC must, in accordance with Art. 11, be adopted unanimously between the delegations present at the meeting. Each delegation has one vote and quorum is two-thirds of the delegations. As COSAC is currently composed, this means that at least 19 delegations must be present at the meeting for there to be a quorum. In the event that some delegations abstain, it is stated in Art. 11.3 that this shall not prevent the adoption of the proposal.

The Presidency proposes in the draft programme for the LXXIV COSAC Plenary Meeting in Copenhagen from 30 November to 2 December that the proposals to revise the Rules of Procedure of the COSAC be discussed at the chairpersons' meeting on 1 December, with a view to a possible vote during the closing session on 2 December.