



**Declaration
of the Meeting of Chairpersons of Committees of European Union Affairs of
Parliaments of the EU South
Nicosia, 24-25 January 2014**

1. The inaugural Meeting of the Chairpersons of the European Union Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of the South with the participation of Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, and Slovenia was held in Nicosia on 24 and 25 January 2014 upon the invitation of the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus.
2. Considering that the ongoing financial crisis has had a severe impact on the Member States of the EU South and aware of the consequent need to promote social cohesion, the Meeting decided to establish an informal gathering of the Chairpersons of the Committees on European Union Affairs of the Parliaments of the EU South. The purpose of this Meeting will be to provide a forum for the discussion of topics and the exchange of views on issues of common concern within the particular EU framework. The Meeting shall contribute to the furthering of interparliamentary cooperation and the enhancement of democratic legitimacy in EU decision-making, with special focus on the Mediterranean area.
3. The Meeting shall be convened twice a year, preceding each COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting and shall be presided over by the Parliament holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU. In the event that the Presidency of the Council of the EU is held by a Parliament not participating in the EU South Meeting, the meeting shall be organized and presided over on a rotational basis. Before each meeting, the delegations shall enter into a consultation on the preparation and finalisation of their proposals.
4. The organising Parliament shall propose issues of common interest for discussion, taking into consideration the proposed COSAC agenda and any other topics forwarded by other participating Parliaments. The organising Parliament shall strive to include in its agenda topics that represent the concerns of the largest possible number of participating Parliaments. Decisions during the meeting, as well as any conclusions or other documents shall be adopted by consensus. The organising Parliament invites candidate countries of the South, namely FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey to attend the meetings of the Parliaments of the EU South as observers.
5. The Meeting, furthermore, welcomes the 5th Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU and its priorities and expresses the firm belief that it will achieve further integration in the fields concerned.