

S&D Interparliamentary Newsletter - Connecting with National Parliaments

BRUSSELS, 06/06/23

PLENARY MEETING OF THE LXIX COSAC

The [LXIX Plenary Meeting of COSAC – the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union](#) – took place on 14-16 May 2023. **COSAC is the most influential platform for exchanging information** and good practice between national parliaments and the European Parliament. From the viewpoint of primary law, it is the only platform of inter-parliamentary cooperation explicitly mentioned in [Protocol No 1 on the role of national parliaments in the European Union](#), attached to the Treaty of Lisbon. Each presidency holds a [COSAC plenary meeting](#) in the current presidency state. This COSAC plenary meeting was held in Stockholm under the remit of the [Swedish Presidency](#).

Socialists & Democrats joined forces at the LXIX Plenary Meeting of COSAC

Progressives represented **25% of all parliamentarians at this COSAC plenary** in Stockholm. Our political family met just before the formal opening of the plenary to join forces to **assess the ongoing Swedish presidency and exchange on current EU issues**.



S&D COSAC Preparatory Meeting

The S&D political family meeting was co-chaired by S&D [MEP Evin Incir](#), member of the **LIBE Committee** in the European Parliament, and SAP MP [Matilda Ernkrans](#), deputy chair of the Committee on EU Affairs in the Riksdag.

The Swedish Presidency: a presidency without ambitions?

The political family meeting was an opportunity to get **insight into the Swedish situation**. The [Swedish Social Democratic Party](#) with 107 seats in the [Riksdag](#) (out of 349) is the biggest political group. The current minority government (composed of Moderates, Christian Democrats and Liberals, but reliant on the support of the Swedish Democrats) took over the priorities prepared by the preceding social-democratic government and only changed the focus of some priorities.



Co-chairs of the COSAC S&D preparatory meeting
MEP Evin INCIR and MP Matilda ERNKRANS

The current government has put many efforts into keeping the strength and unity within the EU-27 to ensure that the EU continues to support Ukraine financially, as well as politically, militarily and on a humanitarian and legal level. However, the parliamentarians deplored that the

Presidency have not done anything, so far, about access to healthcare in the EU for women and girls who have been victims of rape in the conflict.

Furthermore, in terms of competitiveness, the Presidency has not gone beyond previous EU agreements from 2001. In addition, the Presidency has **not been proactive on climate policy, even taking a step backwards, according to the co-chairs of the meeting**. The success of the green transition remains to be seen, particularly in the negotiations on the various parts of the Fit for 55 package, but it is expected to meet minimum expectations. Finally yet more importantly, it was highlighted that **the rule of law has not yet been prioritized** by the Presidency. The right-wing government has not paid any significant attention to or taken any positive actions on the rule of law in the EU, despite mentioning it as a priority in its programme.

Socialists and Democrats united behind the Ukrainian people

The meeting was also the opportunity to address the **Russian war of aggression in Ukraine**. It was recalled that **the S&D Group is strongly focused on the impact the war is having on people**. The S&D leader was the first political group leader in the EP to call Putin a war criminal. From an S&D point of view, the next topics to be discussed in the context of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine are the need for a fair, inclusive and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process, and ways to interlink the recovery and the reform process so that they mutually reinforce each other. Progressive national parliamentarians addressed the issue of enlargement towards Ukraine and some urged caution in that area (in order not to repeat the “Turkish case” or the frustrations in the Western Balkans). The importance of the [OSCE Parliamentary Assembly](#)’s role in promoting peace and security in Europe was mentioned. In the future and after the war, this assembly could be one forum for renewed dialogue with Russia. At this occasion, [Pere Joan Pons Sampietro](#) (PSOE) **announced his candidacy as president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**. The election for the new president of this assembly will take place at the Annual Session of the OSCE PA from 30 June to 4 July 2023 in Vancouver.



Progressives called for a more social single market and a socially just green transition

During the Plenary Meeting of the COSAC, members of the national parliaments' EU affairs committees and members of the European Parliament met to discuss current EU issues: 30 years of the single market, the green transition and Ukraine.

Europe's single market turns 30 this year as the Maastricht Treaty came into force on 1 January 1993. This is the reason why the plenary of COSAC devoted two sessions to "30 years of the single market". **Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum emphasised that the single market has been exposed to various crises** in recent years and therefore underlined how important it is for the EU and its member states to continue to join forces to remove barriers, implement and apply existing legislation and adapt the single market to today's modern digital society. Many speakers argued for the extension of the Schengen area to include Romania and Bulgaria. **Social-democrats insisted on the absolute necessity of embedding social justice in the single market.**



MEP **Heléne Fritzon** delivering a keynote speech at the LXIX COSAC plenary meeting, session III 'Towards a Green Transition'
©Melker Dahlstrand/Swedish Parliament

A further topic of discussion was the green transition. **The EU, but also its Member States, have a central role to play in the green transition.** All 27 EU member states have committed to making the EU the world's first climate-neutral region by no later than 2050. In S&D MEP [Heléne Fritzon](#)'s keynote speech during this session she reminded the audience that the **green deal is a legacy of Swedish social democrats** like Olof Palme, Göran Persson and Anna Lindh. **With the Green Deal and Fit for 55, the EU has truly stepped forward and taken global leadership in the green transition.** Heléne Fritzon recalled that negotiations on the Fit for 55 legislation are now being finalized and that now the role of national parliaments to translate the package into national laws starts. **There are only seven years left until 2030 and emissions must start declining in the coming years.** In the debate, many progressive parliamentarians noticed that the **green transition involves both challenges and opportunities** at all levels of society and that they need to be accompanied by **appropriate social measures.**

COSAC called to continue to provide political, financial, technical, military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine

The fourth session of the plenary meeting of COSAC dealt with the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine. In a very emotional statement, Ms [Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze](#), **Chair of the Committee on Ukraine's integration into the EU**, stressed that the war will not end until Ukraine regains its territorial integrity. She emphasised that unity is essential against Russian aggression and attempts to mislead international law, and she stressed the need to rebuild and reform Ukraine to promote its rapid integration into the EU. The **LXIX COSAC plenary reiterated its prompt support and unwavering solidarity with the Ukrainian people, condemned in the strongest possible way the Russian invasion and clearly called on the EU and its Member States to continue to provide political, financial, technical, military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.** COSAC also emphasised the importance of holding everyone to account who has ordered, committed or participated in war crimes or other extremely serious crimes in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In

addition, COSAC Members welcomed efforts to establish a suitable judicial mechanism to investigate and prosecute people who have participated in crimes of aggression in Ukraine.



During the closing session, [the plenary adopted the Contribution and Conclusions of the LXIX COSAC](#) for the attention of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The next COSAC meeting will take place in Spain during the [Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#).

What's next

- 26 June - Committee on Budgetary Control interparliamentary Committee meeting, "[The role of national parliaments in overseeing the spending of EU funds and the Next Generation EU plan](#)", Brussels.
- 27 June - **S&D political family meeting** and Committee on Foreign Affairs interparliamentary Committee meeting, "Moving the EU enlargement forward - 20 years since the Thessaloniki Declaration" Brussels.
- 28 June - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs interparliamentary Committee, "**Two years after the adoption of the European Child Guarantee: where do we stand?**" Brussels.
- 30 June until 4 July - [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session](#), Vancouver.
- 7 July - **S&D interparliamentary network meeting** (online)

Press releases

- [European Parliament to turn the page on unfair fast fashion, thanks to S&Ds' leadership](#), 31/05/2023
- [European People's Party confirm their climate denial](#), 31/05/2023

- [S&Ds on Ammunition Act: Full support to Ukraine in their fight against Russian invasion](#), 01/06/2023
- [The right wing's embrace of yellow trade unions is eroding social dialogue, warn S&Ds](#), 01/06/2023
- [S&Ds urge swift and comprehensive measures to combat antimicrobial resistance](#), 01/06/2023
- [S&Ds push for longer 'cooling-off period' for MEPs and a ban on lobbying-related side jobs](#), 01/06/2023

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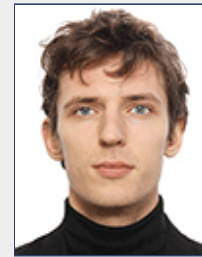
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The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 145 members from 26 EU member states. We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.

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