

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESS RELEASE

Saturday, 25 January 2014

The proceedings of the first Meeting of Chairpersons of Committees of European Affairs of Parliaments of the EU South took place today, in Nicosia. The Meeting was organised in the framework of an initiative by the Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Mr Averof Neofytou. Beyond the host country, Cyprus, the Meeting was attended by representatives of the parliaments of seven countries of the European South: France, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia.

The Meeting was addressed by the President of the House of Representatives, Mr Yiannakis L. Omirou, and Mr Averof Neofytou delivered an opening speech (see separate press releases). The debate focused, to a large extent, on issues relating to the establishment and organisation of the Meeting.

At the end of the Meeting, the participants adopted a Declaration, the text of which underlines, inter alia, the need for greater interparliamentary cooperation, so as to jointly tackle the serious consequences of the financial crisis, as well as for the promotion of social cohesion, particularly in the states of the European South. To this end, the Declaration provides for the creation of an informal forum, which will convene twice a year prior to the meetings of the COSAC Chairpersons Conference, during which the Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of the South EU will have the opportunity to exchange views on issues of common interest so that they may, if possible, submit common suggestions and support common positions on issues within the European framework, which will be chosen for debate on the agendas of COSAC Conferences. The Meeting shall also invite candidate countries of the South to attend as observers.
