



Warsaw, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014

SEJM  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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**Mr Elio Vito**  
**Chairman of the Defense Committee**  
**of the Italian Chamber of Deputies**

**Mr**  
**Nicola Latorre**  
**Chairman of the Defense Committee**  
**of the Italian Senate**

*Dear Colleagues,*

In response to your letter regarding Paragraph 17 of the Conclusions of the Inteparliamentary Conference on CFSP-CSDP held on 3-4 April 2014 in Athens and as a Chairman of Polish delegation to the Sejm of the Republic of Poland I would like to comment on this issue.

According to Polish law the decision to use troops abroad is taken by the President of the Republic of Poland at the request of the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister. The President of the Republic of Poland informs the Speakers of the Sejm and the Senate (two chambers of Polish Parliament) about his decision. The Sejm of the Republic of Poland does not participate in decision – making process. Thus, it can be assumed that the procedure based on Polish law allows to take appropriate decisions without undue delay.

Using EU Battlegroups is additionally subject to the procedure described in the TEU and the TFEU, which specifies the manner and terms of decision – making process, in particular, specifies that the decision is taken by the Council unanimously. As it is known from practice, reaching unanimity is time-consuming and it is politically difficult. We believe that the main reason for difficulties in the effective management of the Battlegroups is unefficient decision – making procedure on the EU level. We propose that further debate is focused on this very issue.

In the meantime I am looking forward to meeting you at the Interparliamentary Conference in Rome in November.

*Yours sincerely,*