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Mr ÇAVUŞOĞLU stands up for interparliamentary scrutiny

Paris, 3 December 2010 - Mr Mevlut ÇAVUŞOĞLU (Turkey), President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, underlined on Wednesday the importance of interparliamentary scrutiny in all areas and in particular in the area of defence.

Addressing the European Security and Defence Assembly (ESDA), Mr ÇAVUŞOĞLU expressed his “deep conviction that international parliamentary scrutiny is just as essential for our democratic stability as the control that is exercised by national parliaments”, adding “this applies to all areas, but is particularly important when it comes to defence, where we are talking above all about human lives; without forgetting the huge amounts of taxpayers’ money involved”.

The President of the Assembly of the Council of Europe recalled that that Assembly had adopted a recommendation which stated that it was essential to maintain at the European level a system of collective consultation among national parliaments on security and defence matters”.

Regarding the closure of WEU and its Assembly, the Assembly of the Council of Europe had warned against “making concessions on the democratic acquis” of the ESDA. It considered that “national parliaments must continue to have an interparliamentary forum to which the European executive will account through regular institutional relations on all aspects of European security and defence”.

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