



From: THE LORD GRENFELL
Chairman of the Select Committee
on the European Union



JIMMY HOOD MP
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Committee

HOUSE OF LORDS
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? Procedurally
in Troika agenda
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chairs.

COSAC ROME OCTOBER 2003

We are delighted that you will be hosting the next COSAC in Rome. We are very much looking forward to your chairmanship of the first COSAC to be held under the new rules of procedure.

To that end, we make two suggestions for Agenda items which we would wish the Troika to consider. These are intended to fulfil the new rule that:

"The principal business on every draft Agenda shall be derived from COSAC's role as a body for enhancing national parliamentary scrutiny by exchanging information, in particular on the practical aspects of parliamentary scrutiny".

Our first suggestion is that COSAC debates how our parliaments intend to scrutinise the work of the IGC and how Governments will keep us informed. Such a debate would be truly topical, with the IGC due to convene only a few days after COSAC meets. If ever there was an opportunity for COSAC to show its worth, this is it.

Our second suggestion is that there be a debate on how COSAC intends to implement this new rule in the coming years. What topics would we all like to see debated under this heading? Such a debate would help to provide a forward work programme for COSAC over, say, the next two years, which we would all welcome. One such topic for a future debate would be how in due course we implement the subsidiarity mechanism; another would be how changes to the Comitology procedure will affect scrutiny.

We accordingly hope it will be possible to place on the agenda for Rome both a debate on how we are all scrutinising the IGC; and another on possible topics for future debates on scrutiny.

I very much look forward to the meeting.

This letter is copied to all COSAC Correspondents by email. I am also writing to Mario Greco, President of the European Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

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Change to COSAC's rules proposed by the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee

In Rule 2.5, at the end to add "Agendas for Troika meetings shall be circulated to all the national parliaments and to the European Parliament not less than two weeks before such meetings, and minutes of Troika meetings shall be circulated to all the national parliaments and to the European Parliament not more than two weeks after such meetings."

2 July 2003