

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



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I am writing in response to your letter of 28 June to Ben Fayot enclosing a note of the regional meetings of the Presidents of Parliaments. Your letter and its attachments were considered by the COSAC Chairpersons at a meeting on 17 July when the subject of Special Guests status under Article 4 of the rules of procedure was discussed.

I should start by saying that the COSAC Chairpersons do not have authority themselves to change COSAC's rules of procedure and their debate was merely advisory for the main plenary COSAC meeting in October. I should also say that Neven Mimica from Croatia made a strong speech in support of your proposal.

After the debate, the Chairpersons decided not to recommend to COSAC that the rules of procedure be amended, which would in any event require unanimity. The Chairpersons did, however, authorise the Presidency to propose to the main COSAC that the Presidency should have flexibility in inviting guests and observers under the rules of procedure, if there was an item on the agenda of definite clear interest to them. It would be important to consider invitations on a case-by-case basis. Neven made the strong point that COSAP, were it to be invited to attend a meeting of COSAC, would of course in one person represent a group of parliaments.

I thank you once again for taking the trouble to write and enclose your material and you have my personal best wishes for continued fruitful co-operation between our organisations.

I am copying this letter to Jimmy Hood, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee, House of Commons; Edward McMillan-Scott and Jo Leinen at the European Parliament; Werner Fasslabend at the Austrian Nationalrat and Albrecht Konecny at the Bundesrat; Ben Fayot from Luxembourg and to the Clerk of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, and to the COSAC Secretariat for onward distribution to Troika colleagues in Brussels.

GRENFELL

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