



COMMITTEE OFFICE
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22 July 2005

Thank you for your letter of 7 July in your capacity as President of CALRE informing me, representing the UK Presidency of COSAC, of the meeting you held on 6 May where an arrangement for dialogue and collaboration between COSAC and CALRE was studied.

Your letter was considered by the COSAC Chairpersons at their meeting on 17 July, during a debate on the subject of special guests and observers. The COSAC Chairpersons do not have the authority to change the rules of procedure and can only advise the COSAC plenary how to proceed. The COSAC Chairpersons decided not to recommend that COSAC amend its rules of procedure with regard to Article 4, and in any event any such change would of course need unanimity.

The COSAC Chairpersons did, however, agree to advise COSAC to invite the Presidency to ensure that the rules of procedure were interpreted flexibly so that outside institutions could be invited 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.

The COSAC Chairpersons did not decide to advise COSAC to enter into a formal agreement with CALRE – to do so would not be how COSAC usually proceeds. But you have the full support of the Presidency in continuing your work on subsidiarity and other important issues of mutual interest.

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 Nationalrat and Albrecht Konecny at the Bundesrat, Austria; Laurent Mosar, Vice-President of the Parliament of Luxembourg; Ben Fayot Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign and European Affairs, for Defense, for Cooperation and for Immigration, Parliament of 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

Ernest Benach I Pascual
President of the Parliament of Catalonia
CALRE President
Gabinet de Presidència