



20 October 2005

Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC) – Contribution addressed to the EU institutions

The Protocol on the role of the national parliaments in the European Union attached to the Treaty of Amsterdam provides that the Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC) may make any Contribution it deems appropriate for the attention of the EU institutions.

The meeting of COSAC hosted by the United Kingdom Parliament took place on 9 – 11 October 2005 and agreed a Contribution to be addressed to the EU institutions. As joint Chairs of the meeting, we accordingly take great pleasure in enclosing a copy of the COSAC Contribution for the attention of the EU institutions.

You will see that COSAC has agreed a number of specific recommendations, including greater openness in the scrutiny of CFSP and in the Council's legislative function; continuing improvements in the procedure for impact assessments, in the context of a welcome for the better regulation initiative; an agreement that those national parliaments which wish to participate should, under the Amsterdam Treaty, conduct subsidiarity and proportionality checks on EU legislation; and encouraging a wide debate, with special responsibilities for national parliaments and the European Parliament, on the future of Europe.

We hope that the institutions will take note of COSAC's Contribution.

As required by the Protocol on the role of national parliaments in the Amsterdam Treaty, we are addressing the Contribution to the Council of Ministers; the European Commission and the European Parliament.

This letter is copied to Julian Priestley, Secretary General and Bo Manderup Jensen, Director of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, European Parliament.

Yours sincerely

Lord Grenfell
Chairman European Union Committee
House of Lords

Jimmy Hood MP
Chairman European Scrutiny
Committee
House of Commons

Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles
President of the European Parliament
rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels
Belgium