



COSAC Presidency  
Werner Fasslabend  
Chairman of the National Council Standing  
Subcommittee on European Union Affairs  
Hauptausschuss  
Dr. Karl Renner-Ring 3,  
A - 1017, VIENNA  
AUSTRIA

The Hague, 20 January 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Mr Fasslabend and Mr Kneifel,

Thank you for your invitation to the meeting of the COSAC chairpersons on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February in Vienna. The agenda of the meeting touches upon two important challenges that lie ahead in the European Union's future. Regarding the topic of "the next steps for national parliaments subsidiarity control", the European Cooperation Organisations committee of the Senate, States-General, the Netherlands would like make the following suggestion.

During our COSAC-meeting in London, October 2005 we successfully decided to combine forces and conduct a subsidiarity and proportionality check in 2006 on the same European Commission's proposals. Parliaments have been asked to inform the COSAC Presidency of the proposals they wish to be subject to the check so that the Troika can designate the most frequently mentioned proposals. We of course look forward to receiving the final list. In order to achieve the best parliamentary scrutiny possible, we would like to suggest that the COSAC proposes to the EU Presidency and COREPER that the council deliberations on these European proposals of the final COSAC list are conducted in public, in accordance with the specific measures taken by the Council in December 2005 in order to improve the openness and transparency of its formal meetings and to reach the widest public possible.

We welcome the measures taken by the Council on openness and transparency and believe that it also provides the parliaments a new instrument to fulfil their tasks, to strengthen their role and contribute to a better public understanding of the EU. Therefore, we believe it to be of the utmost importance that the COSAC combines the instrument of the subsidiarity and proportionality check with the instrument of public Council meetings and requests the deliberations on the proposals on the COSAC-list to be held in public.

We would like for the Troika to discuss this proposal on 20 February in Vienna and include the proposal during the chairpersons' deliberations on "the next steps for national parliaments subsidiarity control". We will of course distribute our proposal in advance also to our colleagues in the national parliaments.

Please accept our best wishes for a successful presidency,

With kind regards,

P.R.H.M. van der Linden  
Chairman of the committee on European Cooperation Organisations,  
Senate of the States-General, the Netherlands