



Mag.<sup>a</sup> Barbara Prammer

REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH  
Nationalrat  
Die Präsidentin

Mr. André FLAHAUT  
Speaker of the Belgian House  
of Representatives

Mr. Danny PIETERS  
Speaker of the Belgian Senate

Dear Colleagues,

Vienna, 14 March 2011

Thank you very much for all your effort in organizing the forthcoming Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments in the EU in Brussels and the useful information concerning the agenda topics you have thus far provided .

Concerning the Presidency proposal regarding the future parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), I would like to make use of your offer to present some observations which are also supported by the delegation of the Austrian Bundesrat.

- The Austrian delegation agrees with your proposal to establish a conference of members of the national parliaments and the European Parliament. It should be discussed as to what extent existing forms of inter-parliamentary meetings could serve as a basis.
- The structure, however, should follow the COSAC model. Delegations could be composed of up to 4 or 6 members in order to include opposition parties as well and could meet twice a year. As in COSAC, the European Parliament should have the same representation as each national parliament. Establishing a troika including the European Parliament on a permanent basis could be considered; but conferences should be chaired by the parliament of the country holding the EU Presidency.

- Regarding a secretariat – if deemed necessary – the existing COSAC secretariat could be reinforced in order to provide services to this conference as well.

Looking forward to a fruitful discussion in Brussels on this topic, I remain

With best regards,



(Barbara Prammer)