

4 May 2010

Rd 012-3421-2008/09

Dear Colleague,

I look forward to welcoming you to Stockholm next week. Enclosed you will find the final preparatory documents for our meeting: the final draft agenda, an annotated agenda, and additional background notes for the various items on the agenda.

I would also like to take the opportunity to comment on the proceedings, as they differ partly from our standard procedures. This will be my contribution to our common wish to revitalise the conference. I hope our discussions will be lively and characterised by dialogue. Therefore, I welcome short interventions, not exceeding 3 minutes, by colleagues on the list of speakers. Furthermore, I will encourage short spontaneous remarks on what has just been said.

As for the agenda, our meeting on Friday 14 May will be devoted to the Lisbon Treaty and interparliamentary cooperation, as well as the challenges parliaments face in encountering new technologies and modern means of communication. We will also have an opportunity for discussion with the Commissioner responsible for contacts with national parliaments and Vice President of the European Commission, Mr Maroš Šefčovič.

For my part, I intend to present a progress report on the IPEX forum debate on interparliamentary cooperation. We will also discuss the proposal for amending the guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments, which has been submitted to you, and on which we will hopefully reach an agreement.

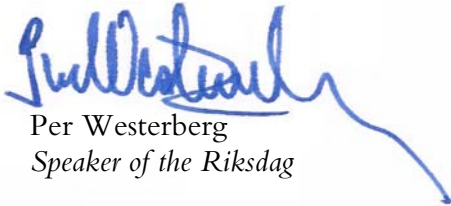
The second theme – communication and new technologies – will be introduced by H.E. Mr Matthew W. Barzun, U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, with experience from the 2008 presidential election campaign, and Mr Åke Grönlund, Professor of Information Science. After the introduction, there will be short presentations by two colleagues who will share their thoughts and experiences in this field. The exchange of views to follow will be led by an experienced moderator, Ms Mia Odabas, who is also a journalist.

The debate among Speakers will be supplemented with a more practical demonstration outside the plenary hall of ongoing developments in the EU parliaments, based on experiences in a couple of parliaments/chambers. As an illustration of our theme of communication, it will, for the first time, be possible for

the public to follow the open parts of the conference via the social network Twitter (www.twitter.com/eusc2010).

Finally, the informal session in the 1+1 format on Saturday morning will concentrate on preparations for the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, as well as the financial crisis and consequences for parliamentary budgets. The procedure applied for the informal part here will be “tour de table”.

Yours sincerely,



Per Westerberg
Speaker of the Riksdag