



To the Secretaries General of the national Parliaments of the EU
and of the European Parliament

**Secretary General of the
Danish Parliament**

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Dear Colleagues,

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The Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments to be held in Paris from February 27th to February 28th 2009 may well be the last of its kind to be held before the Treaty of Lisbon might eventually take effect. It is therefore essential that the Speakers of the EU Parliaments discuss the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty which concern the national Parliaments.

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During the Conference, it will be up to the Speakers to initiate the initiatives which they consider expedient.

It is of vital importance to the Danish Parliament that one does not anticipate the Lisbon Treaty so as to apply provisions which do not apply until the Treaty has taken effect. On the other hand, nothing prevents us from setting up the framework for the future cooperation to be done on the basis of the Treaty of Lisbon so that we will be ready to initiate the cooperation if and when the Treaty takes effect.

Thus it will be expedient for the Parliaments to prepare the implementation of the decisions taken at the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments as soon as possible and I take it that we, the Secretaries General, will be responsible for a great deal of the work.

I should therefore like to suggest that we arrange a meeting at the earliest possible date after the end of the Conference.

At the meeting, we might also discuss other practical matters which need to be clarified. In accordance with the revised version of the Hague Guidelines, the Secretaries General have been given the competence to adopt "additional provisions on technical practices and procedures", I suggest that we deal with the question of finding solutions to these practical questions together.

The questions concern i.a.:

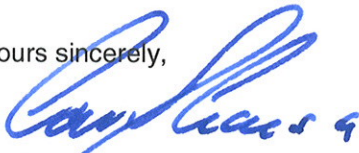
- When the above mentioned Hague Guidelines were revised, and adopted at the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments held in

Lisbon in 2008, the idea was to enlarge the existing Annex but it was not clear which subjects were to be included and the matter was therefore postponed. However, this did not imply that the rule of forwarding all invitations to the Speakers of Parliament was deleted. And it has caused some confusion that this practical rule has not been comprised by the revised version of the Hague Guidelines.

- Moreover, there is the question of elaborating a vade mecum for interparliamentary meetings between the national Parliaments and the European Parliament.
- The practical rules on the holding of Conferences of Speakers of EU Parliaments are to be found in the "Guidelines for Presiding Officers", which requires a revision i.a. concerning the Language Regime.
- The Language Regime mentioned above, which was adopted at the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments in Budapest in 2005, has been interpreted in different ways, and at all the subsequent Conferences the rules on interpreters' payment have been administered in different ways. So there is a need to reach a solution on this matter.

I trust that the above questions may be part of our discussions when we meet to discuss more important matters as a follow-up to the coming Conference.

Yours sincerely,



Carsten U. Larsen