

Dear Colleague,

It is with the greatest pleasure that I invite you to Budapest to the next meeting of the Conference of Speakers of EU parliaments which will be held on 6-7 May 2005. This meeting will be a unique occasion as this will be the first time that the Conference of Speakers is organized on the basis of the reform adopted in the Hague, and hopefully this will lead us to a new era of our cooperation.

On the Conference, we will discuss the following issues of great importance:

- Interparliamentary cooperation. Within this issue, we discuss the interparliamentary coordination, and the relations among the European Commission and EU parliaments. Therefore I invited Mrs Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for the relations with national parliaments;
- Rationalization of the European interparliamentary organizations;
- The EU parliaments and the financial perspectives for 2007-2013;
- Discussion on the ratification of the Treaty establishing a European Constitution;
- The contribution of the EU parliaments to the enhancement of the global role of the EU. Within this issue, first we will have a general discussion on EU external relations, and then we will continue a special debate on EU-Western Balkans relations. The presidents of the parliaments of the countries of the Western Balkans who I invited to the second day of our meeting will be entitled to make their contributions to this item.

Please find enclosed the agenda, programme and the general information of the Conference of Speakers.

It is with great expectations that I am looking forward to our meeting in Budapest.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Katalin Szili