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Dear Madam Speaker,  
Dear Mr. Speaker,

23 December 2011

Ref. 11-001101-8

Thank you very much for your letter of 29 November regarding the compromise proposal on establishment of an Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defense Policy, which was discussed at the EU Speakers' Conference in April 2011.

I truly appreciate the efforts you have undertaken during your presidency towards reaching a consensus with the European Parliament in this matter. I have discussed the issue with the chairmen of our Committees on Foreign Policy and European Affairs. The Danish Parliament appreciates, that your proposal means that the two existing inter-parliamentary conferences, COFACC and CODAC, is reorganised into a single forum which means that no new institutions is established for this purpose.

Having taken note of your compromise proposal it is still the position of the Danish Parliament, that there should be equality between national parliaments and the European Parliament. This should be reflected by the size of the delegations. It should be up to each parliament to decide on the composition of its delegation to the conference.

Furthermore the responsibility for preparing the Conference should rest with the Presidency of the Conference in close cooperation with the other troika parliaments and the European Parliament preferably supported by existing secretariat functions such as the COSAC secretariat and our network of national representatives in Brussels.

Finally, let me stress that I put great emphasis on granting observer status to EU candidate states and Norway and the Danish Parliament support that the candidate countries and Norway are invited to participate with one observer and one substitute each.

It is my hope that we can achieve a final compromise during the next Speakers Conference and I truly support your efforts of seeking a resolution on the issue. I deeply appreciate your entire activities during the Presidency of the European Union, which you have taken during the last six months in a very succesful manner.

I remain yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft'.

Mogens Lykketoft