



HOUSE OF LORDS



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr Benediktas Juodka  
Mr Arthuras Paulauskas  
Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas  
Gedimino pr. 53  
LT-01109  
Vilnius  
Lithuania

23 July 2013

Dear Mr Juodka  
Dear Mr Paulauskas

Thank you for your letter of 26 June.

As the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Commons and the EU Sub-Committee on External Affairs in the House of Lords, we are writing on behalf of the UK delegation to the Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy. You requested in your letter that each Parliament nominate a representative to the Ad Hoc Review Committee (AHRC) which will evaluate the workings of the Conference and make recommendations to be deliberated on by the Conference of Speakers who will themselves be conducting a review of the Conference in 2015. We would like to inform you that the UK Parliament's nominee to the AHRC will be Richard Ottaway, Chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. However, as Mr Ottaway is unable to be in Vilnius in September, Lord Tugendhat, Chair of the EU Sub-Committee on External Affairs in the House of Lords, will attend the AHRC meeting on 5 September.

You also asked for any comments on the activities of the Conference and its Rules of Procedure. We would like to draw your attention to the appended letter from Members of the UK delegation to the first meeting in Paphos, Cyprus, which was sent to Pat Breen T.D., Chairman of the Irish Parliament's Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, in advance of the Dublin meeting in March. This letter suggested some ideas on how the functioning of the Conference could be developed. We would be grateful if you would consider the ideas within this letter as part of the work of the AHRC.

More generally, we would like to emphasise our belief that the purpose of the AHRC and its recommendations should be to provide suggestions on how the effective functioning of the Conference should be improved. In particular, consideration may



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be given to how the size of the Conference impacts upon debate and the general efficiency of the Conference, and the process by which the formal Conclusions of the conference are formulated and agreed. On the latter point, some of the UK delegates to the Dublin meeting were concerned they were not given sufficient opportunity to consider the draft Conclusions. Finally, the AHRC should not look to expand the remit or role of the Conference beyond the principles and framework agreed by Speakers, which were reached after some difficulty at the EU Speakers' Conferences in Warsaw on 20-21 April 2012 and Brussels on 4-5 April 2011.

**Lord Tugendhat**

Chairman, House of Lords EU Sub-Committee on External Affairs

**Mr Richard Ottaway MP**

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee,  
House of Commons