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Mr. José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

15 July 2013

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you following the recent COSAC plenary meeting that took place in Dublin from 23-25 June as part of the parliamentary dimension to the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

At the conference, national parliamentarians from across the EU and members of the European Parliament held robust and constructive debate on the future of the European Union, development policy, EU enlargement and issues affecting marginalised youth.

In the Contribution adopted by the conference, COSAC welcomes the focus being placed by the Commission and the European Council on the issue of democratic legitimacy and accountability, as part of the wider debate on EMU. The Contribution includes a call for the Commission to engage with Parliaments and to come forward with firm proposals for greater democratic legitimacy and accountability with a sense of ambition and urgency.

In the document, COSAC acknowledges the work of the Commission in dealing with the large number of reasoned opinions sent to it by national Parliaments and invites the Commission to review, to improve and to clarify practical arrangements for the operation of both the yellow and orange card. The Contribution also sets out the view that national parliaments should be more effectively involved in the legislative process of the EU and calls on the Commission to consider, within the existing context of political dialogue, any individual or collective requests from national Parliaments for new legislative proposals.

Please find enclosed the Contribution adopted by the COSAC plenary. I look forward to your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman, Joint Committee on European Union Affairs