



COMMISSION
DES
AFFAIRES EUROPEENNES

Paris, 15. December 2011

LE PRESIDENT

Dear Madam President,

Recent decisions and agreements reached in order to restore the financial stability of the Euro area have risen up concerns as regards to the parliamentary control of the Eurozone. I think the present situation could present some danger.

The European Union of 27 members is already under a full parliamentary control thanks to the important powers granted to the European Parliament and the increasing association of national parliaments. However, the center of decision-making is now slightly moving towards the meetings of the Euro area or those of other forms of intergovernmental cooperation, where only the Governments are represented. Parliaments are gradually put on the sidelines.

I believe COSAC would be an excellent place for discussing how we could improve democratic control and for taking an initiative on this issue. Therefore, I would very much appreciate if you accepted to put this question on the agenda of the next COSAC meeting, which will take place in Copenhagen.

Should you wish to discuss this idea with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen in a few weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Simon SUTOUR

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Dear Mister President,

Thank you very much for your letter of 15 December, which raises a very important question regarding parliamentary accountability of the foreseen stronger future coordination of economic policies in the EU. Last week's European Council in Brussels brought important decisions on a new fiscal compact, stronger economic coordination and stronger crisis mechanism based on an intergovernmental Treaty that needs to be discussed by national parliaments in the whole of EU27.

I fully agree with you that COSAC is an excellent place for discussing these highly important questions.

We therefore have invited Vice-President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, to address the COSAC chairpersons' meeting on 30 January 2012 to present the Commission's view on the sovereign debt crisis, European Economic Governance and democratic accountability.

I thank you once again for taking the trouble to write me and you have my personal best wishes for continued fruitful co-operation between our Parliaments.

Should you wish to discuss the issue further with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen in a few weeks.

Yours sincerely

Eva Kjer Hansen
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs