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Dear Mister President,

Thank you very much for your letter of 26 January, which raises a very important question regarding democratic accountability of the new international treaty on coordination and governance of economic policies in the EU.

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I fully agree with you that COSAC is an excellent forum for discussing this highly important question.

Your Deputy-Chair, Ms Gabriele Molitor, is most welcome to address the specific question regarding the proposed mechanism for parliamentary oversight in the new treaty's Article 13 during our debate.

Democratic accountability of the new international treaty is an issue that has also occupied me lately. I fully agree with you that we need to find solutions that respect national parliaments' budgetary sovereignty.

When it comes to the composition of this conference, I share your view about equality between national parliaments and the European Parliament.

I also believe that national parliaments individually need to engage in a closer political dialogue with the European Commission on the substance of issues related to this new closer economic cooperation and the European Semester. National parliaments should explore how the existing political dialogue with the European Commission could be strengthened even further.

At the meeting I'm going to present a few more concrete ideas as to how this could be done.

Should you wish to discuss the issue further with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing Ms Gabriele Molitor in Copenhagen on Sunday and hopefully yourself at the COSAC plenary in April.

Yours sincerely

Eva Løjer Hansen
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs