

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS

SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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Mrs. Anna Kinberg BATRA Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs Riksdagen of the Kingdom of Sweden

> 1st July 2009, Vilnius

Dear Mrs. Kinberg Batra,

May I congratulate you on the start of the Swedish EU Presidency and successful Swedish contribution to the Troika Presidency agenda.

We in the Lithuanian Seimas appreciate very much the timely and significant joint Swedish and Polish initiative on enhanced cooperation with the Eastern Neighbourhood countries, which has been successfully launched in the framework of the Eastern Partnership under the Czech Presidency. The Eastern Partnership consistently reflects the need of the enlarged EU for a more balanced strategy for cooperation with the Eastern partners based on the understanding of historical and political peculiarities of the neighbouring countries.

COSAC welcomed the results of the Founding Eastern Partnership Summit in Prague. It stands to no doubt that the parliamentary dimension of the Eastern Partnership could be a significant contribution to the new quality of the cooperation.

The Joint Declaration of the Summit called on the national parliaments of the EU and the partner states to submit ideas regarding the proposal to establish the EU-Neighbourhood East Parliamentary Assembly (EURO-NEST PA). The decision to be part of the process has already been taken in the European Parliament. Yet, we firmly believe that the parliaments of most of the EU member states might be willing and ready to contribute to the development of parliamentary cooperation with our Eastern Partners. In our opinion COSAC is the right place for the National Parliaments to exchange views about the modalities of the establishment of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend wishes of every success to you and your country presiding in the EU at this challenging time.

Česlovas Vytautas Stankevičius

Committee Chairman