



M. Pierre Lequiller
President of the Delegation of the National As-
sembly for the European Union

M. Hubert Haenel
President of the delegation of the Senate of the
European Union

cc: COSAC Secretariat
Ms. Loreta Raulinaitytė

**Request to include the proposal for a
Regulation on Public Access to EU documents
on the agenda of the XL COSAC**

Dear Colleagues,

On 30 April 2008, the European Commission published a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (COM(2008) 229). It was the stated aim of the Commission's proposal to increase the transparency of the EU and to enhance public access to European documents. In the opinion of many commentators, the proposal will, in fact, be a step backwards from the current legal position.

The Eduskunta's Law, Constitution and Administration committees have adopted reports that are highly critical of the proposal. The Eduskunta feels that the proposal would in several respects make access to documents more limited than today. The Eduskunta is particularly critical of the narrowing of the concept of "documents" and of the exclusion of certain categories of documents from the application of the Regulation altogether.

The proposal will next be discussed by a Council working group on 30 October 2008. The European Parliament is due to vote on the proposal in early 2009. It is my understanding that the European Parliament's LIBE Committee has similar concerns to those expressed by the Eduskunta.

On this basis, I should like to propose that the proposed Regulation on Public Access to EU documents be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming COSAC. The timeframe of the proposal is such, that COSAC could have a real influence on the deliberation of the proposal. Needless to say, the subject of the proposal is one of unusually great concern to all member parliaments.

I should be grateful for your consideration of the Eduskunta's proposal and remain,

Yours sincerely,

Erkki Tuomioja
Chair