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**Joint Committee on European  
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Ms Gabriela Crețu,  
Chair of European Affairs Committee,  
Senate

Mr Angel Tîlvăr,  
Chair of European Affairs Committee,  
Chambers of Deputies

Strada Izvor 2-4,  
Bucharest,  
Romania.

cc Mr Kenneth Curmi, COSAC Secretariat  
**Ref I356**

7 January 2019

Dear Chairperson Crețu and Chairperson Tîlvăr,

On behalf of myself, and all of the Members of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs of the Irish National Parliament, I would like to apologise that none of us are in a position to attend the meeting of the COSAC Chairperson being held in Bucharest on 20-21 January 2019.

As it happens, the COSAC Chairpersons meeting will coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of Dáil Éireann (Ireland's equivalent to the Chamber of Deputies). It is an important historical event for Ireland, particularly for the National Parliament, and will be marked by a number of events including a Special Joint Sitting of both Houses of the Oireachtas on the 21<sup>st</sup> January.

As you can imagine it is important that I, and my colleagues, attend. I can only regret that attendance at this significant historical meeting and commemoration means that none of us can join you in Bucharest later this month. We very much hope and expect to send a full delegation to the COSAC Plenary meeting later this year, and look forward to meeting again then.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all of the best for this meeting and indeed all of your other parliamentary work during the Romanian Presidency ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Healy-Rae TD  
Chairman

*Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge*