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Chairman of the Committee
on the Questions of the European Union
German Bundesrat
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Matthias Wissmann, MdB
Chairman of the Committee
on the Affairs of the European Union
German Bundestag
Platz der Republik 1
D-11011 Berlin

The Hague and Prague, April 27th, 2007

Dear Colleague,
Dear Mr. Stächele,
Dear Mr. Wissmann,

Thank you for your invitation to the XXXVII Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of the National Parliaments of the European Union and the European Parliament (COSAC) taking place in Berlin from 13 to 15 May 2007.

Following the results of the 7th Biannual Report prepared by the COSAC secretariat, we would like to encourage the German and the upcoming Portuguese presidency to take the necessary steps in order to continue the subsidiarity check as it was started during the British and Austrian presidency of the EU. Welcoming the fact that most parliaments, participating in the two checks conducted by COSAC (postal services and divorces agenda), have appreciated the added value of the coordination of the subsidiarity check, we are of the opinion that the coordinated scrutiny of legislative proposals can continue without any delay.

Signalizing our readiness in this process, we have selected five items, draft legislative acts from LWP of the European Commission for the year 2007, that we, representing the authorised committees of Czech Senate and the Senate and the

House of Representatives of the States-General of the Netherlands – consider as appropriate for the subsidiarity check conducted by the COSAC:

- 1) Measures to ensure the completion of the internal market for electricity and gas;
- 2) Proposal for a revision of the Council Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism;
- 3) Community Framework for safe and efficient health services;
- 4) Proposal for a Regulation on the Transfer of Defence Products;
- 5) Proposal for a Directive on the coordination of procedures for award of public contracts in the defence sector.

We invite the national parliaments to support this initiative. Furthermore, we urge the Presidency to prepare, for the next meeting of COSAC, decisions leading towards the approval of a list containing legislative proposals which are to be subjected to a coordinated subsidiarity and proportionality check. The five Commission initiatives mentioned above, could be put to the meeting as a proposal.

Considering as important to find some regular agenda for the COSAC meetings, we consider the coordinated subsidiarity check as the right option recalling the wording of the Amsterdam Protocol on the role of the national parliaments in the EU (sec.6) mentioning the application of the principle of subsidiarity as one of the fields of a special COSAC interest.

Yours sincerely,

Luděk Sefzig
Chairman of the EU-Affairs Committee
Czech Senate

P.R.H.M. Van der Linden
Chairman of the EU-Affairs Committee
Senate of the States-General of the Netherlands

Harm-Evert Waalkens
Chairman of the EU-Affairs Committee
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