

COSAC Presidency
Mr. Jari Vilén
Chairman of the Grand Committee
Eduskunta

8 September 2006 No 2-22/791

Dear Colleague,
Dear Mr. Vilén,

Thank you for your invitation to the meeting of the COSAC chairpersons on the 11th of September in Helsinki. On behalf of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu I would like to bring to your attention our interest in the forthcoming enlargement of the Schengen area. We would appreciate if this issue could be included in the agenda of the COSAC meetings during the Finnish Presidency.

The European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu discussed with the Minister of Internal Affairs of Estonia on the 28th of August 2006 the schedule for the enlargement of the Schengen area. It was brought to our attention that due to technical reasons the enlargement may fall significantly behind the initially planned schedule. As the European Union Affairs Committee considers the enlargement of the Schengen area one of our top priorities, we would appreciate if during the Finnish Presidency the COSAC would adopt conclusions in favour of the soonest possible enlargement of the Schengen area. We have already received support for placing this issue on the agenda of the meeting of the COSAC chairpersons on the 11th of September from our colleagues in Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, Cyprus, Lithuania and the Czech Republic.

Yours sincerely,

Kristiina Ojula
Chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee
Riigikogu