

**ВЕРХОВНА РАДА УКРАЇНИ****Комітет з питань Європейської інтеграції**

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№ 06-16/М-117(79899)" 13" травня 2006 р.**Dear sirs,**

On behalf of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine I would like to thank you for inviting the Ukrainian Delegation to participate in the XXXV COSAC in Vienna.

The participation in COSAC is of great importance to Ukrainian Parliament. We consider it to be a possibility to deeper understand the EU development tendencies, as well as acquire the experience of our colleagues from the parliamentary European Committees of the EU member-states. The Participation in COSAC would enable us to improve the European dimension of the Verkhovna Rada activity.

We have been constantly informing our colleagues – COSAC participants of this, as their controversial opinions hampered Ukrainian participation in Conference for 2 years.

In this regard we do appreciate your kind invitation, and we sincerely regret that underwritten circumstances prevent us from participation. The fact is the parliamentary elections have recently taken place in Ukraine, and the first session of the parliament of new convocation is being prepared for the time being. The first meeting of the new parliament is to take place this week, and the foreign visits usually are not made at this time.

We hope you will understand this situation and will further support Ukraine in its aspirations to partake in COSAC.

Looking forward to meeting at the next COSAC meetings.

**Sincerely yours,**

**Oleh Zarubinskyi**  
Acting Chairman

**Dr. Werner FASSLABEND**  
Chairman, Standing Sub-Committee on EU Affairs  
National Council  
The Austrian Parliament

**Gottfried KNEIFEL**  
Chairman, Committee on EU Affairs  
Federal Council  
The Austrian Parliament