



26 October 2005

**Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC) – Contribution
addressed to the EU institutions**

We thank you very much indeed for taking the time to come and address the meeting of COSAC hosted by the United Kingdom Parliament on 9 – 11 October 2005. The meeting very much appreciated the opportunity to engage in such a stimulating dialogue with you.

The Protocol on the role of national parliaments in the European Union attached to the Treaty of Amsterdam provides that the Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC) may make any Contribution it deems appropriate for the attention of the EU institutions.

As joint Chairs of the meeting, we accordingly take great pleasure in enclosing a copy of the COSAC Contribution.

You will see that COSAC has agreed a number of specific recommendations, including greater openness in the scrutiny of CFSP and in the Council's legislative function; continuing improvements in the procedure for impact assessments, in the context of a welcome for the better regulation initiative; an agreement that those national parliaments which wish to participate should, under the Amsterdam Treaty, conduct subsidiarity and proportionality checks on EU legislation; and encouraging a wide debate, with special responsibilities for national parliaments and the European Parliament, on the future of Europe.

Yours sincerely

The Lord Grenfell
Chairman European Union Committee
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