

MARGOT WALLSTRÖM  
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

RUE DE LA LOI, 200 - B-1049 BRUXELLES  
WETSTRAAT, 200 - B-1049 BRUSSEL

23 FEB. 2005

Brussels,  
SR/is D(2005) 342  
A647

Ben Fayot  
Chairman of the Committee for Foreign and European Affairs, for Defense, for  
Cooperation and for Immigration  
Fax : + 352 22 02 30

Dear Mr Fayot,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 February 2005.

Please allow me to convey my appreciation of your invitation to participate in the COSAC Chairpersons meeting in Luxembourg. I found it very useful to get the opportunity to express my views on the plans and possibilities to reinforce relations between the Commission and the national parliaments.

In this perspective, I intend to enhance the Commission's contacts with national parliaments, and our assistance of your important work in relation to Union policies.

The Commission is nevertheless particularly concerned to respect both the constitutional provisions of each Member State in relation to the ratification of the Constitution, and the role that National Parliaments play in these procedures. Consequently we do not wish to anticipate the Constitution's ratification in any way.

I believe that the Constitutional Protocols relating to National Parliaments and subsidiarity constitute an important advance in the development of a more democratic Union. In this context, the pilot project which has been decided by the COSAC appears to me to be very interesting.

I am therefore happy to inform you that the Commission will forward to the COSAC the documents which have been requested, whilst continuing to respect the procedures currently required under the Treaties.

Yours sincerely,

  
Margot WALLSTRÖM