



**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

TO

**MRS GABRIELA CREȚU
CHAIR OF THE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE ROMANIAN SENATE**

**MR ANGEL TÎLVĂR
CHAIR OF THE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE ROMANIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you with the start of the first Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. I also would like to thank you for our fruitful cooperation during the Bulgarian Presidency and I hope that we will continue the good work in the following months as well.

I am particularly glad to see that one of the priorities of the Romanian presidency will be the European perspective for the Western Balkans, in continuation of the work started by the Bulgarian Presidency and carried on by the Austrian Presidency. In this regard I would like to share with you my recent experience as a guest to the 13th and 14th Conference of Committees for European Affairs/Integration of countries within the Stabilisation and Association Process of South-East Europe (COSAP), held respectively in Skopje on 25-26 February and in Podgorica on 2-3 December 2018. At the last meeting I had the opportunity to deliver a speech on the role of national Parliaments during the accession period where I expressed my conviction that interparliamentary cooperation is an invaluable tool for strengthening the European integration.

In a similar vein I believe that it could be useful for one or more members of the COSAC Presidential Troika to attend the meetings of COSAP on a regular basis in order to gain further perspective on the challenges faced by the candidate and potential candidate countries. As part of our common efforts to achieve EU's accession objectives, it would be practical to deepen the cooperation between COSAC and COSAP on a technical level as well.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Bucharest and further discussing the opportunities for collaboration on the matter. I also would like to use this opportunity to wish you all the best in the upcoming months of intense work and meetings and I am convinced that the Parliamentary dimension of the Romanian Presidency will be a success!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' and 'V' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

KRISTIAN VIGENIN

**CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND
OVERSIGHT OF THE EUROPEAN FUNDS**