

11 February 2020

## Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, Helsinki 17 - 19 May 2020

Dear Colleague,

It is an honour and a pleasure to invite you to the next EU Speakers' Conference, to be held in Helsinki's Marina Congress Centre from Sunday, 17 May until Tuesday, 19 May 2020.

Please find enclosed the programme approved at the meeting of Secretaries General on 27 January, as well as the customary practical information. As usual, programmes and practical information are liable to be updated. Any changes will be communicated to your Secretariat without delay, and posted on our website [www.parleu2019.fi](http://www.parleu2019.fi) and the IPEX Speakers' Conference page.

The Conference will address several major, interlaced policy issues facing the European Union during 2020. I would mention especially the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Multi-annual Financial Framework and Europe's Green New Deal. My intention is that most of Monday is devoted to a comprehensive debate on these and other "*Big Issues of Europe's Future*".

On Monday, the Conference will discuss the role of Parliaments in international affairs. The heading "*The Emerging Global Dispensation and the Return of Realpolitik – What Role for EU Parliaments?*" reflects my assessment that global politics may be taking a turn away from the multilateralism that has been the keystone of international relations for many decades. Evolution in the structure of international relations may imply new institutional arrangements and new approaches to transparency to which Parliaments may need to adopt their procedures. Our job as presiding officers is to defend the constitutional and institutional role of Parliaments in the long term. In today's nebulous international situation, I believe we can all benefit from an exchange of views and insights.

The Conference will also approve Conclusions on inter-parliamentary cooperation, as prepared by the Secretaries General. We will send you the draft Conclusions in good time before the Conference.

I look forward to welcoming you in Helsinki to what I hope will be a productive and enjoyable Speakers' Conference.

Yours sincerely,



Matti Vanhanen  
Speaker of the Eduskunta