



HOUSE OF LORDS
European Union Committee

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Mr Yiannakis L. Omirou,
President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of
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13 February 2013

My dear President,

Inter-parliamentary scrutiny of closer economic and monetary union

I look forward to attending the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in Nicosia on 21-23 April, on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza.

The European Union Committee of the House of Lords has considered the matter of inter-parliamentary scrutiny of closer economic and monetary union, in the context of Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Co-ordination and Governance, and in light of the conclusions of the December 2012 European Council, and the various proposals that have been made over the past few weeks. I am writing to let you know the conclusions of the Committee, in the hope that they will prove useful for the discussion on this subject at the Conference in April (and at the forthcoming meeting of EU Committee Chairs in Copenhagen on 11 March).

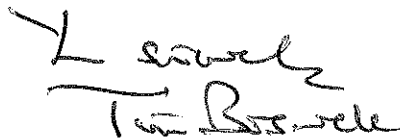
The Committee did not seek to set out a detailed proposal, but rather to establish two broad principles as a basis for agreement.

First, the Committee noted that the moves to a closer economic and monetary union will have a significant impact on all Member States, including those whose currency is not the euro. Non-euro area Member States are full participants in the single market and also take part, to varying extents, in wider forms of economic and fiscal coordination, including in relation to the European Semester. Therefore, any parliamentary oversight of a strengthened economic and monetary union should be at the level of all 27 national parliaments (soon to be 28) and the European Parliament, and we would strongly deprecate any suggestions to the contrary.

Second, the Committee noted that any new arrangements must respect the different competences of national parliaments and the European Parliament.

I look forward to discussing these matters with you and our colleagues at the Conference of Speakers. The Committee expressed the firm view that it would be in all the interests of all parliaments for this Conference to reach an agreement, if possible, rather than having to wait until next year.

I am copying this letter to the Speakers of the other Parliaments of the European Union.

With warm best wishes,


Lord Boswell
Chairman of the European Union Committee