

Stockholm 8 March 2013

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Dear Speakers, dear Colleagues,

I look forward to attending the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments in Nicosia on 21-23 April. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the discussions in various forums as well as the proposals regarding interparliamentary discussions according to Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union. It is my belief that joint efforts are called for in order to take this important question further in a constructive manner, and eventually reach an agreement. In my view, it is important to remain flexible and open in our discussions ahead.

The basis for an agreement is to ensure democratic legitimacy and accountability at the level at which decisions are taken and implemented. This leads me to believe that we should consider the opportunities offered by existing structures of cooperation and give priority to an exchange between the responsible parliamentary committees. As has already been pointed out, we should strive for efficiency and cost restriction. Parliamentary discussions on this matter should include all EU parliaments.

After consulting my Nordic and Baltic colleagues, I conclude that the committees participating in these meetings must have a decisive say as regards the forms of cooperation. Bearing this in mind, a possible way forward could be for the responsible parliamentary committee chairs of the current and upcoming presidencies to elaborate on the forms for future cooperation and present a proposal in close cooperation with all the concerned committee chairs. This assignment could preferably be formulated and delegated to the relevant committee chairs at the EU Speakers Conference in Nicosia. I believe this is a possible way of moving the discussions forward.

The Speakers of the Parliaments in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden very much look forward to constructive discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Per Westerberg
Speaker of the Riksdag