



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

to Mr Ioannis Tragakis
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
Hellenic Parliament
Syntagma Square
100 21, Athens, Greece

date 23 January 2014
re. Democratic legitimacy of the European Union

Dear Mr Tragakis,

Unfortunately I have to inform you that I will not be able to attend the meeting of COSAC Chairpersons on 26-27 January 2014, as I had planned. Nevertheless I am grateful to confirm my participation in the meeting of the LI COSAC on 15-17 June 2014.

For me, as rapporteur Democratic Legitimacy of the European Union, it is even the more regrettable that I am not able to attend the upcoming COSAC Chairpersons meeting, because I had planned to share with you some concrete ideas on how, in my opinion, COSAC could concretely strengthen the role of national parliaments in the process of European decision making. Nevertheless I am excited to introduce some of these ideas in this letter. I would like to call on all the delegations to the COSAC Chairperson meeting to share their sympathy or doubts about the following ideas with the delegation of the Dutch House of Representatives. Consequently, I hope to further discuss these ideas with you and with our colleagues myself, as soon as the next opportunity occurs.

Group of forty-one

Most importantly I propose the formation of a standing group of political representatives of EU-affairs committees of national parliaments. Having a subcommittee amongst us allows us to easily exchange information on a political level in the event of a potential yellow card. This **Group of forty-one** political representatives should be inspired political ambassadors for the execution of the yellow card procedure.

The Group could also be used for the practical elaboration of all sorts of new ideas, such as the **green card procedure** (i.e. for national parliaments to propose new European policies to the European Commission), or **improving the existing yellow card procedure** by adding the proportionality criterion and extending the 8-week deadline. These are merely two examples, and I am open to all your ideas. Eventually these new ideas and new arrangements need to be agreed upon inter-institutionally and that also could be a task for the Group. A group like this can be



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practical, can come up with concrete proposals with broad support, and could present them to the COSAC.

In conclusion, honourable chair, I would like to ask you hereby, with regard to the agenda of the LI COSAC, if you could add me as a keynote speaker for the item on the agenda on *Democratic legitimacy and European leadership: the day after the European elections*. I would be more than willing to share with you my findings as rapporteur Democratic Legitimacy of the EU, and hopefully present some concrete ideas to strengthen the role of national parliaments, that are widely supported by all delegations.

With the highest esteem,

Mr R.W. Leegte

Vice chair of the standing committee on European affairs
Rapporteur Democratic Legitimacy in the European Union
House of Representatives