



# Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

To the Chairperson of the Grand Committee,  
Ms Satu Hassi, Parliament of Finland  
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Concerning: Legislative transparency on the plenary COSAC agenda

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Dear Ms Hassi,

I would like to congratulate you on the productive COSAC Chairpersons meeting we had in Helsinki last July. We look forward to participate in the COSAC plenary session in December 2019.

As the EU is in the midst of formulating its priorities for the legislative cycle 2019-2024, the plenary COSAC is an excellent opportunity to put legislative transparency on the agenda. Transparency concerns all of Europe's parliaments and goes to the heart of EU democratic accountability, an issue in which the Finnish Parliament is a leading example. Therefore, I have the honour, on behalf of the European Affairs Committee of the Dutch House of Representatives, of requesting that you include the issue in your plenary program.

Transparency of legislative negotiations is a priority for both our countries. At the governmental level there has been a long-standing tradition of cooperation on this matter. However, despite many efforts, decision-making on EU legislation by the Council of the European Union still remains a black box. This impedes national parliaments in the exercise of their constitutional task. We cannot scrutinize our government because there is too little transparency with regard to the conduct of negotiations within the Council, the European Council and the Eurogroup.

We suggest to invite the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, to share her views. Last May, the Ombudsman launched a triple investigation into the transparency of Council decision-making, following two earlier reports, in which she took a critical stance on the conduct of legislative negotiations.<sup>1</sup> Alternatively, we suggest to invite a

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<sup>1</sup> You can find more information about the investigations at <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/press-release/en/109910>.



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Council representative to discuss the state of the ongoing talks about possible reforms regarding the proactive publication of legislative documents by the Council.

The Dutch rapporteurs, Mr. Omtzigt and Ms. Leijten, are happy to discuss further possibilities to put the issue on the plenary agenda.

On behalf of the members of the Dutch European Affairs Committee I wish you every success with the organization of the EU-presidency. Should you have any questions regarding our request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to our close cooperation, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Hayke Veldman

Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives in the Netherlands