

Bundesversammlung

Assemblée fédérale

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Federal Assembly



Swiss Delegation to the
Parliamentary Committee of EFTA
States and for relations with the
European Parliament
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Mr Luciano Busuttil

Chairman of the Foreign and European
Affairs Committee of the House of Rep-
resentatives of the Republic of Malta

14 November 2016

Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation

Dear Mr Busuttil,

On behalf of the Swiss delegation for relations with European institutions and their member states, I would like to congratulate you on Malta's imminent presidency of the Council of the European Union. Endeavouring to contribute to strengthening dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation, the Swiss delegation for relations with the European Parliament and its member states continually strives to foster active, lasting and recurring exchanges.

Since the Italian presidency in 2014, a delegation from the Swiss Federal Assembly has been invited to attend the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC). Switzerland's participation in these meetings has contributed greatly to strengthening dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation with its most important partners, the members of the EU.

Because of this, and in view of H.E. Mr Angelo Farrugia's pleasant letter to the president of the Swiss National Council, Christa Markwalder, I would be honoured to be able to represent a Swiss delegation at the next meeting of the chairpersons of COSAC, and at the COSAC plenary meeting. I am certain that participation at future inter-parliamentary meetings during the Maltese presidency of the Council of the EU would provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations between the EU and Switzerland – as important political and economic partners.

In my capacity as president of the delegation for relations with the European Parliament and its member states, I would be very grateful if you would consider Switzerland's request to attend the forthcoming meetings of COSAC as a special guest, as well as at future inter-parliamentary meetings planned during Malta's presidency.



It is a particular concern of mine that we pursue our dialogue on European policy in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, so that we can continue to work successfully on finding common solutions. With this in mind, I would like to wish you a successful and enriching EU Council Presidency in the first half of 2017.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Aeschi', located below the closing text.

Thomas Aeschi
Member of the National Council
President of the EFTA/EU Delegation



PRESIDENT OF THE STORTING

8 December 2016

Dear Speaker,

I am addressing you in relation to the parliamentary dimension of the forthcoming Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union to ask if the House of Representatives would be willing to extend invitations to Norway for the parliamentary meetings anticipated during the EU Presidency of the Republic of Malta.

The calendar of your presidency includes a number of highly interesting parliamentary events. Norway is closely associated with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement and a number of other agreements. With the EU and Norway so deeply integrated we share a common interest in increased cooperation and knowledge sharing. Participation in the meetings forecast for this spring would provide an important and valuable opportunity to this end. As you may be aware, it is a well-established practice that members of the Norwegian Parliament are invited to parliamentary meetings hosted during EU Presidencies. I sincerely hope the Maltese EU Presidency will continue this practice.

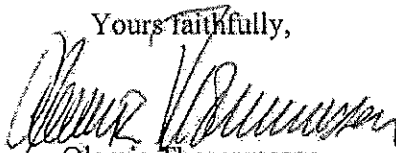
Honourable Dr Angelo Farrugia
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta
Malta

I am aware that for certain meetings, the Maltese EU Presidency would need to consult with its troika partners before extending invitations to special guests. This is the case for the COSAC chairpersons and the COSAC plenary meetings as well as the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU. I would be very grateful if you would forward this letter to the chairpersons of the standing committees responsible for those meetings to facilitate these consultations.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success with the EU Presidency of the Republic of Malta this spring.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

Yours faithfully,



Olemic Thommessen