

Mr. Jean Bizet
Chair of the Committee for European Affairs
French Senat

Dear Mr. BIZET,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December, in which you raised the very important topic of the level of participation of national Parliaments in the process of negotiating trade agreements between the EU and third countries.

As you have already seen, the draft agenda for the LIX COSAC consists of five sessions, dedicated to the achievements of the Bulgarian Presidency; the integration and connectivity of the Western Balkans; the European pillar of Social Rights; the future of the Cohesion Policy; and the role of the EU Interparliamentary cooperation in the context of the debate on subsidiarity and proportionality. I consider the last topic to be especially important in light of the work of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and “Doing Less More Efficiently”, chaired by First Vice-President Timmermans. For this reason, I believe time constraints would prevent us from dedicating a whole session on the engagement of national Parliaments in trade negotiations; however, I would like to encourage you to make an intervention on this matter during the last session and thus give a start to a fruitful debate in the future.

I look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Bulgarian Presidency - the Meeting of the COSAC Chairpersons on 21-22 January, where we could discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,



Kristian VIGENIN
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds
National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

