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Swiss Delegation to the
Parliamentary Committee of EFTA
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Mr Toomas Vitsut
Chairman of the European Union Affairs
Committee of the Riigikogu
Republic of Estonia

1 June 2017

Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation

Dear Mr Vitsut,

On behalf of the Swiss delegation for relations with European institutions and their member states, I would like to congratulate you on Estonia'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 events relating to the parliamentary dimension of the EU Council presidency. Switzerland's participation in these meetings, in particular the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), has contributed greatly to strengthening dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation with its most important partners, the members of the EU.

In that context, I would be honoured to be able to represent a Swiss delegation at the inter-parliamentary meetings announced in Malta at the beginning of this week to be chaired by the Estonian Council presidency in Tallinn, first and foremost the next meeting of the chairpersons of COSAC on 9 and 10 July, and the COSAC plenary meeting on 26–28 November. I am certain that participation at future inter-parliamentary meetings during the Estonian 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.

Riigikogu Kantselei

Kuupäev

Viit

12. 06. 2017
3-8/17-17/19



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 inter-parliamentary meetings as a special guest, particularly the meetings of COSAC, planned during Estonia'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 second half of 2017.

Yours sincerely,

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