



PRESIDENT OF THE STORTING

19 May 2016

Dear Speaker,

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

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 autumn 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 Slovak EU Presidency will continue this practice and that we can further discuss this issue when we meet in June.

I am aware that for certain meetings, the Slovak 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 this consultation.

H.E. Mr. Andrej Danko
Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic
Slovakia

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

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Olemic Thommessen', written in a cursive style.

Olemic Thommessen