ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Richárd Hörcsik
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
Hungarian National Assembly
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HUNGARY

Of. nº 37/4ª-CAE – Refª 17.1   8 February 2011
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Mr. Chairman of the Hungarian Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs,
Dear Colleague,

First of all, I would like to express my best wishes for the Hungarian presidency in the first semester of 2011, especially as far as the interparliamentary meetings are concerned. I am, thus, looking forward to the interesting discussions that will most certainly take place at the upcoming COSAC meetings in Budapest.

Considering the EU current political and institutional context, namely regarding the proposed amendment of article 136[1] of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), National Parliaments may be interested to debate this topic among themselves and, therefore, the COSAC meeting could be an opportunity to promote an exchange of views among the Members of the different Chambers/Parliaments on this important issue.

The above mentioned amendment will follow a simplified revision procedure of the Treaties (related to Part III of the TFEU, as stated in no. 6 of article 48 TFEU), which do not include any notification or consultation to National Parliaments. However, and in the spirit

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[1] *Article 136 TFEU* (from the Chapter concerning the provisions specific to Member States whose currency is the Euro)
1. In order to ensure the proper functioning of economic and monetary union, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaties, the Council shall, in accordance with the relevant procedure from among those referred to in Articles 121 and 126, with the exception of the procedure set out in Article 126(14), adopt measures specific to those Member States whose currency is the euro:
(a) to strengthen the coordination and surveillance of their budgetary discipline;
(b) to set out economic policy guidelines for them, while ensuring that they are compatible with those adopted for the whole of the Union and are kept under surveillance.
2. For those measures set out in paragraph 1, only members of the Council representing Member States whose currency is the euro shall take part in the vote.
A qualified majority of the said members shall be defined in accordance with Article 238(3)(a).

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of the parliamentary culture of the *Convention*, it could be interesting to raise the attention of the EU Institutions to the positions of National Parliaments and the European Parliament upon this proposal of amendment.

Furthermore, a word should also be said in relation to the process regarding the proposal of the amendment itself, as it was a result of one of the European Council meetings, without a previous political and comprehensive debate. During an EAC meeting of the Portuguese Parliament concerning this matter, it was underlined that the *acquis* of the Treaty of Lisbon should always be assured in the Treaty revision procedures, with no prejudice for the work of both the European Commission and the European Parliament.

I would like to draw your attention, as President in office of COSAC, to this issue, hoping to contribute to the improvement of the further strengthening role of COSAC, as a forum for interesting political debates, leaving behind procedural and bureaucratic issues, and aiming to have more concrete and political exchange of views, dedicated to discuss specific issues that might bring added value to our EU affairs monitoring and scrutiny and to the works of the Conference, with reflection in its final Contribution to the EU institutions.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate that the European Affairs Committee, which I am honoured to chair, is fully committed to the challenges we face and prepared for the mutual cooperation required to build a more democratic and prosper Europe.

Yours sincerely,

(Vitalino Canas)
Chairman on the European Affairs Committee

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