



Mr André FLAHAUT
Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on
European Affairs
Chamber of Deputies

Brussels

Mr Philippe MAHOUX
Chairman of the Federal Advisory
Committee on European Affairs
Senate

Brussels

**Proposal for the Contribution of the
XLIV COSAC:**

The proposed framework agreement between the European Parliament and the Commission

Dear Colleagues,

As you will recall, the XLIII COSAC in Madrid included in its Contribution (points 6.2 and 6.3) references to the proposed framework agreement between the European Parliament and the Commission. The negotiations on the framework agreement have subsequently advanced and the agreement is due to be signed soon, following the necessary formalities in the European Parliament.

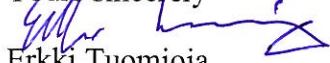
The Grand Committee of the Eduskunta adopted on 24 September 2010 the enclosed, second statement on the framework agreement. The opinion will be normative for our government's future actions in the EU Council.

In the assessment of the Grand Committee, which coincides with the opinion of the EU Council's Legal Service, parts of the framework agreement are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Lisbon Treaty. If realised, they would seriously jeopardise the Commission's independence and undermine the EU's institutional balance by requiring an alliance of the EP and Commission against the Council. Any weakening of the Council is an encroachment on the status of the EU's Member States and would ultimately prejudice the ability of national parliaments to influence European policy.

I believe that we continue to face a situation where national parliaments' rights in the European sphere need an active and coordinated defence. For this reason, I believe that this issue should be addressed in the Contribution of the XLIV COSAC. I believe the necessary debate can be subsumed under several of the topics on the existing agenda, and would appreciate your guidance as to when it would be most appropriate for me to raise this issue.

I am taking the liberty of sharing this letter with the other COSAC delegations.

Yours sincerely


Erkki Tuomioja
Chairman of the Grand Committee