



PARLIAMENT OF ICELAND

Mr. Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE
Chairman of the Committee on European Union Affairs
Congreso de los Diputados

Reykjavik, 14 January 2010

Dear colleague,

It was a great pleasure to meet you at the XLII COSAC meeting in Stockholm on 5-6 October. I hope this letter finds you well and the preparations for the parliamentary work under the Spanish EU Presidency in the first half of 2010 are progressing smoothly.

As you know, Iceland applied for EU membership on 17 July 2009. The European Commission is currently finalising its opinion on the application. It is expected that Iceland will be granted formal candidate status in the first half of this year and that accession talks will commence soon thereafter.

The Icelandic EU application is a parliamentary driven process. The Icelandic Parliament has emphasised the participation in parliamentary cooperation of the national parliaments of the European Union as an integral part of the accession process. Following Iceland's EU application, the Swedish Parliament invited delegations from the Icelandic Parliament to participate as observers in the COFACC and COSAC meetings during the Swedish EU Presidency. I therefore would like to inquire whether the Icelandic Parliament will be invited to the COSAC meetings during the Spanish EU Presidency. Should our candidate status not be in place before the XLIII COSAC meeting in Madrid this spring I would nevertheless kindly request that we could participate as observers.

I look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best of luck in the busy time ahead during your EU Presidency.

Sincerely yours,

Árni Þór Sigurdsson
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE