ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Dear colleagues,

As you might remember, at the XXXVIII COSAC meeting held in Estoril, it was decided that the decision to appoint a new permanent member of the COSAC Secretariat for the period 2008-2010 should be taken at the Chairpersons Meeting under the Slovenian Presidency that is due to take place on 18 February 2008.

This postponing was due to the fact that the necessary requirements to appoint a permanent member of the COSAC Secretariat at the XXXVIII COSAC Meeting were not fulfilled then, namely because no candidate was put forward.

This is a very important moment for COSAC. Firstly, the Rules of Procedure were amended in Estoril, acknowledging the role of the Secretariat. Secondly, the co-financing mechanism - that will cover almost all the costs related to the post - is ready to be put in practice, since 23 Parliaments have expressed their commitment to participate in the co-financing. Finally, the provisions contained in the Lisbon Treaty with regard to the role of national Parliaments will represent a new set of responsibilities for us all, which means that now, more than ever, COSAC will need an effective and working Secretariat.

For all the above mentioned reasons, I would like to invite your Parliament to analyse the possibility of putting forward a suitable candidate that can take over the post of permanent member from February 2008 onwards.

The procedure is the following - the Parliaments that wish to second a candidate should write a letter to the Presidency, preferably until 28 December 2007, identifying the candidate and attaching the *curriculum vitae* of the proposed candidate.

I take this opportunity to stress how urgent this matter is, so that our common work can continue to run smoothly.

Looking forward to your acceptance,

Yours sincerely,

Vitalino Canas
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee
Assembleia da República