



European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons 7 Millbank London SW1P 3JA

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From: Michael Connarty MP

17 January 2007

Matthias Wissmann MdB
Chairman of the Committee on the Affairs of the
European Union of the German Bundestag
Deutscher Bundestag
Platz der Republik 1
D-11011 Berlin
Germany

Dear Matthias,

I enclose a letter which I have received from the Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK in which he seeks my Committee's support for his request that a delegate from the Parliament of Ukraine be given the status of a special guest at the XXXVII COSAC in Berlin in May.

The question of special guests was debated at the London COSAC Chairpersons meeting in 2005. The minutes of that meeting concluded that there was agreement among the chairpersons that, under COSAC's Rules of Procedure, COSAC presidencies could, after consulting the Presidential Troika, issue invitations to the national parliament of Ukraine, or other outside bodies to participate in COSAC meetings as special guests if there was an item on the agenda of definite clear interest to them. Invitations were to be considered on a case-by-case basis and there was agreement among the chairpersons that COSAC should avoid a permanent list of special guests, which would be inflexible.

My Committee would be happy to support Ukraine's attendance linked to a specific agenda item. However, the Ukrainian request is made without any forward knowledge of the agenda for the XXXVII COSAC which is likely to

be proposed by the German Presidency. I would suggest therefore that it would be premature to agree to the request by the Ukrainian Parliament at this stage.

I would be grateful if these matters could be brought to the attention of the next Troika meeting. I look forward to seeing you next month at the meeting of COSAC chairpersons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Connaity". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

CHAIRMAN



European Scrutiny Committee

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From: Michael Connarty MP

17 January 2007

Willi Stächele
Chairman of the Committee on Questions of the
European Union of the Bundesrat
Bundesrat
D-11055 Berlin
Germany

Pin 1517

Dear Willi,

I enclose a letter which I have received from the Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK in which he seeks my Committee's support for his request that a delegate from the Parliament of Ukraine be given the status of a special guest at the XXXVII COSAC in Berlin in May.

The question of special guests was debated at the London COSAC Chairpersons meeting in 2005. The minutes of that meeting concluded that there was agreement among the chairpersons that, under COSAC's Rules of Procedure, COSAC presidencies could, after consulting the Presidential Troika, issue invitations to the national parliament of Ukraine, or other outside bodies to participate in COSAC meetings as special guests if there was an item on the agenda of definite clear interest to them. Invitations were to be considered on a case-by-case basis and there was agreement among the chairpersons that COSAC should avoid a permanent list of special guests, which would be inflexible.

My Committee would be happy to support Ukraine's attendance linked to a specific agenda item. However, the Ukrainian request is made without any forward knowledge of the agenda for the XXXVII COSAC which is likely to be proposed by the German Presidency. I would suggest therefore that it would be premature to agree to the request by the Ukrainian Parliament at this stage.

I would be grateful if these matters could be brought to the attention of the next Troika meeting. I look forward to seeing you next month at the meeting of COSAC chairpersons.

Michael Connarty

CHAIRMAN

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Agenda item
(5)

Paper to note (i)



Embassy of Ukraine
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Mr. Michael Connarty Esq. MP
Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee
House of Commons
United Kingdom

London SW1A 0AA

13 December 2006

Ref: 6124/24-117-1382

Dear Mr. Connarty,

Hereby I would like to seek your valuable support for the favourable consideration of the request of the Committee on European Integration of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to grant its delegation comprised of one MP and one accompanying person the status of a special guest of the next XXXVII COSAC meeting to be held in Berlin in May 2007. Relevant address has recently been forwarded to the EM Presidency and other Members of the Presidential Troika.

Ukrainian delegation enjoyed the right to take part in two last COSAC meetings in a row, which proved to be extremely efficient, especially for the development of bilateral contacts with their colleagues from the European Committees of the EU National Parliaments. Continuing participation of Ukraine in COSAC meetings is considered by the Committee on European Integration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as a unique chance to reinforce the constructive dialogue with the European Parliamentarians. Therefore, the kind support of the aforementioned request by the European Scrutiny Committee of the House of Commons will be most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Ihor Kharchenko

Ambassador