



Prime Minister  
Mr Matti Vanhanen  
PL 23  
00023 VALTIONEUVOSTO

*Dear Prime Minister Vanhanen,*

It is a special pleasure for me to address this letter to you in your capacity as President of the European Council.

XXXIV COSAC (Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union), at its meeting in London in October 2005, decided that the national parliaments should select legislative projects from the work programme of the European Commission for 2006 which they wish to subject to subsidiarity and proportionality checks. These checks are based on the Amsterdam Treaty and its Protocol No. 30 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

In February 2006 COSAC Chairpersons decided to submit a request to Council that the Council meetings dealing with the EU projects selected for subsidiarity checks by the national parliaments should be accessible to the general public. Austrian Parliament passed the request to Chancellor Schüssel in March 2006 and received his answer in May 2006 (copies attached).

COSAC has completed the first check on the Commission's proposal concerning applicable law and jurisdiction in matrimonial matters and the second check on the full accomplishment of internal market of postal services has been launched two weeks ago for further consideration by the national parliaments. As the Council will start dealing with these matters in the end of this year, we ask you to deal with our request. The proposal on applicable law in matrimonial matters is not subject to the co-decision procedure, thus a public hearing would need to be decided by the Council in advance by a qualified majority.

Our request is in line with the objectives of Finnish Presidency and the measures adopted by the European Council in June 2006 with a view to improving the openness and transparency of formal Council meetings and making them accessible to as many people as possible.

As acting COSAC Presidency, I would like to submit this request to you on behalf of COSAC.

Jari Vilén  
Chairperson of the Grand Committee

