




Matthias Wissmann


Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages
Bundesminister a. D.


Vorsitzender

des Ausschusses für die Angelegenheiten der Europäischen Union

Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin, 8. September 2006

 (030) 227 – 34896/35653

 (030) 227 – 30171

 europaausschuss@bundestag.de

Herrn
Jari Vilén
Chairman
The Grand Committee
Eduskunta – Parliament of Finland
00102 HELSINKI
FINNLAND

Dear Chairman and Colleague,

Thank you for your note on the future funding of the permanent member of the COSAC secretariat and on reviewing the Rules of Procedure of COSAC. You rightly point out the need for an in-depth discussion on the future funding of the secretariat, as well as possible changes to the Rules of Procedure in order to formally establish the secretariat.

The work of the secretariat was favourably evaluated by the UK presidency and appreciated by all speakers which took the floor during the XXXIV COSAC in London in October 2005 conference, which enabled us to prolong the interim phase in which the secretariat could continue to operate. The modification of the Rules of Procedures and the question of the financing of the permanent member of the secretariat were left for further discussion until the end of the current permanent member's term in office. I therefore welcome your initiative to conclude the debate concerning the permanency of the secretariat in accordance with point 5.5 of the conclusions of the XXXIV COSAC.

As the presidential Troika, we should aim at presenting a coherent proposal to our colleagues. Some of the questions regarding the remuneration and the sharing of the financial burden might prove rather technical and difficult in detail. Should you wish to place the issue on the agenda of the XXXVI COSAC in Helsinki, it might therefore be useful to establish a reflection group open to all COSAC members with a mandate to advise the presidency in order to facilitate the debate.

I am looking forward to a very fruitful debate in the Troika next Monday.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]