



REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
Parlament

Vienna, 8 March 2006

Dear Mr. Federal Chancellor,

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

The 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 those 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.

An up-to-date list of items proposed (see enclosure) is now available, although the national parliaments are free to notify additional EU projects from the Commission's work programme to be subjected to a subsidiarity check.

Following up a proposal made by the Dutch delegation, the COSAC Troika agreed at the meeting of COSAC Chairpersons in Vienna on 20 February 2006 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. From among the EU projects on the enclosed list, the COSAC Chairpersons selected the first two items (divorce matters and postal services) for further consideration by the national parliaments. This is in line with the measures adopted by Council in December 2005 within the framework of the treaties and provisions currently in force 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 Chairpersons, we should like to submit this request to you on behalf of COSAC.

Finally, we should like to thank you for having agreed to be available for an exchange of ideas on the topic of „Europe – perspectives and pragmatism“ on the occasion of the XXXV COSAC in Vienna on 22 May 2006 at 9:45 a.m. We know that many parliamentarians are already looking forward to that event with great interest.

Yours sincerely,

Werner Fasslabend
Chairman of the National Council Standing
Subcommittee on European Union Affairs

Gottfried Kneifel
Chairman of the Federal Council
EU Committee

Enclosure

Mr. Wolfgang SCHÜSSEL
Federal Chancellor

Bundeskanzleramt
Ballhausplatz 2
1014 Vienna

