



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DE LIBRE-ECHANGE

Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA Countries
The Chairman

Brussels, 4 February 2005
Ref. no.: 1051732

Dear Mr Fayot,

As Chairman of the EFTA Parliamentary Committee, I am writing to you to ask for your kind consideration on the matter of finding a suitable mechanism whereby Parliamentarians of the four EFTA countries could be present e.g. as observers at COSAC meetings.

Through the EEA (European Economic Area) Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway enjoy strong economic and political ties with the EU, as does Switzerland with its sets of bilateral agreements. The EEA EFTA States are full-fledged members of the Internal Market, having implemented all relevant EU legislation to this regard. The EFTA Countries' commitment to Europe is further underlined by the past and present large financial contributions towards economic and social cohesion in Europe.

Attending COSAC meetings would obviously facilitate our participation in and contribution to the European agenda. The EFTA Parliamentary Committee has an excellent cooperation with the European Parliament through the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee. At its latest meeting in November 2004, this Committee adopted unanimously a resolution calling on the EEA EFTA States to make efforts with a view to attending COSAC meetings.

I am aware of the current Rules of Procedure regarding observers and special guests attending COSAC meetings. However, it is my hope that a revision of the Rules could be considered in order to allow Parliamentarians from the EFTA Countries to participate in one way or the other.

Mr Ben FAYOT ,
Chairperson of the Committee
of Foreign and European Affairs, of
Defense, Cooperation and Immigration,
Parliament of Luxembourg

The EFTA Parliamentary Committee pays great interest to the development of the EU, and a possible EFTA participation in COSAC would in my view be conducive to the European integration process. It would equally strengthen the cooperation between our parliaments and peoples, while providing valuable information to national debates on European affairs.

I would like to thank you for your kind considerations, and I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morten Høglund". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Morten Høglund MP
Chairman of the Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA Countries

Cc: Mr Laurent MOSAR,
Chairperson of the COSAC Delegation,
Parliament of Luxembourg

Ms Diana Wallis MEP,
Chairperson of the EEA/SIN Delegation,
Vice-President of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee