



Mrs Catalan Szili  
National Assembly  
Kossuth Lajos ter 1-3  
HU- 1357 BUDAPEST  
HUNGARY

(to all national  
parliaments)

The Hague, December 3, 2004

Dear President, Speaker of Parliament,

Only very recently our leaders of government have signed the new constitutional treaty for the European Union. A quantum leap that will hopefully strengthen the European Union and the integration process. As national parliaments of the European Union, we also need to implement the treaty within our parliamentary procedures.

The treaty offers an excellent opportunity for a strengthened role, a stronger democratic process and involvement of the national parliaments in the European integration process. The parliaments should use this reinforced role also as an instrument to raise the national European awareness.

In order to realise this objective, the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) has adopted the "declaration on the role of national parliaments in the European debate: Raise national European awareness". The declaration commissions a coinciding debate in all the national parliaments on the Annual Legislative and Work Programme of the European Commission in the same week as this debate will be scheduled in the European Parliament.

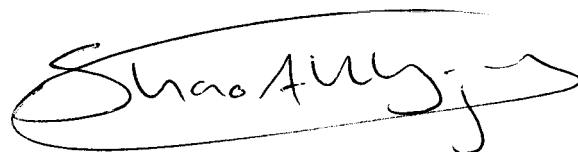
By putting this initiative in practice we will bring our citizens and civil society closer to Europe which will hopefully result in more direct involvement. It will encourage our parliaments to place European issues more prominent on the agenda and moreover will help us to preliminary check the compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality.

With this writing the COSAC calls for your support to not only proclaim this declaration in your parliament, but to promote to have the debate on the Annual Legislative and Work Programme of the European Commission in the national parliaments in the same week as the European Parliament. In order to realise this effectively, we would like to ask the Conference of Speakers to put forward a proposal, in consultation with the European Parliament, on this specific week during the first Conference of Speakers every year.

On behalf of COSAC,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rene van der Linden', written over a horizontal line.

Rene van der Linden  
Chairman of the standing committee  
on European Affairs of the Senate of  
the States General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sharon Dijksma', written over a horizontal line.

Sharon Dijksma  
Chairperson of the standing committee  
on European Affairs of the House of  
Representatives of the States General