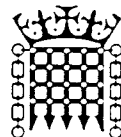


From: Jimmy Hood MP



EUROPEAN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

7 MILLBANK, LONDON SW1P 3JA

22 July 2002

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John Cloas

Thank you for sending me a copy of your proposals for reform of COSAC. There is a great deal in them which I strongly agree with, and I look forward to discussing the proposals on 16 September.

However, it seems to me that the proposals may be too ambitious for agreement all at once, particularly in view of the current requirement for unanimity on rule changes. My suggestion would be to tackle the reform at the October meeting in three stages: first, to abolish the requirement for unanimity for rule changes, without which no reforms are likely to be agreed at all; secondly to make the detailed changes to COSAC's organisation (e.g. creation of a secretariat, replacement of the troika) which would make COSAC capable of taking on new tasks; and thirdly to discuss what new roles COSAC and national parliaments might take on. Detailed proposals for changes to COSAC's rules on matters such as voting and how the secretariat would be appointed and paid for would therefore be needed by the October meeting, and I assume you plan to draw these up following 16 September.

There is also likely to be a major debate about whether COSAC itself should carry out tasks such as monitoring and enforcing subsidiarity, giving views on draft proposals and being the Forum of Parliaments, or whether it should act as a more strategic body, organising activities such as those in the Forum of Parliaments, rather than conducting such activities itself.

It will be a pleasure to meet you again and discuss these matters in September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claus Larsen-Jensen'.

CHAIRMAN

Mr Claus Larsen-Jensen
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