



## STORTINGET

Oslo, 10.06.2020

Dear Presidents,

I am addressing you in relation to the parliamentary dimension of the forthcoming German Presidency of the Council of the European Union to ask if the Bundestag and the Bundesrat would be willing to extend invitations to Norway for the parliamentary meetings anticipated during the EU Presidency of Germany.

Germany will be taking over the EU presidency in an extremely challenging time for Europe and the rest of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic affects us all and will have an unprecedented impact on many policy areas. For me, the crisis has demonstrated the importance of international cooperation and dialogue, including parliamentary cooperation.

Even though you may have to adjust your calendar of your presidency depending on the development of the COVID-19 situation, I am aware that you have scheduled a number of highly interesting parliamentary events over the next months. Norway is closely associated with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement and a number of other agreements. With the EU and Norway so deeply integrated, we share a common interest in increased cooperation and knowledge sharing. Participation in the meetings forecasted would provide an important and valuable opportunity to this end both in the case of physical as well as possible digital meetings.

I know that for certain meetings, the German EU Presidency would need to consult with its troika partners and the European Parliament before extending invitations to special guests. Notably this is the case for the COSAC chairpersons and the COSAC plenary meetings as well as the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU.

Dr Wolfgang Schäuble  
President of the German Bundestag

Dr Dietmar Woidke  
President of the German Bundesrat



I would be very grateful if you would forward this letter to the chairpersons of the standing committees responsible for those meetings to facilitate these consultations and hope Norwegian Parliamentarians will be able to participate in the parliamentary conferences during your presidency.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success with the EU Presidency of Germany this fall.

Looking forward to continued close cooperation, I remain

Yours faithfully,



Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen