



Lord Speaker

THE RT HON. THE LORD FOWLER

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Dear President Schäuble and President Woidke,

I would like to offer my warm congratulations on beginning the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. I was pleased to be made aware of the calendar of forthcoming interparliamentary conferences to be hosted under the Presidency.

As you know, the United Kingdom left the European Union on 31 January 2020, and entered into a transition period, which will end on 31 December 2020. Interparliamentary conferences are an opportunity for the House of Lords, as a third country chamber, to participate in discussions on areas of common interest with our European counterparts. I would therefore be grateful for your consideration of extending an invitation to the House of Lords for the interparliamentary conferences and meetings that will take place under the Presidency.

I understand that invitations for third country parliaments are made only in accordance with the procedural requirements for each meeting, and that you will need to consult with the chairpersons of the committees responsible for those meetings, and in some cases your troika partners and the European Parliament.

In closing, I would like to wish the German Presidency every success over the coming months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Fowler', written on a light-colored background.

Dr Wolfgang Schäuble
President of the German Bundestag

Dr Dietmar Woidke
President of the German Bundesrat