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H.E. Mrs. Ināra Mūrniece  
Speaker of the Saeima  
Republic of Latvia

18 December 2014

### **Increasing interparliamentary cooperation**

Dear Mrs Mūrniece,

As head of the Swiss Federal Assembly Delegation for relations with European institutions and their member states, I wish to thank you most sincerely for sending me the calendar with precise details of the various interparliamentary events planned for the forthcoming Latvian presidency of the EU Council of Ministers. The Swiss Federal Assembly Delegation for relations with European institutions and their member states has always sought increased interparliamentary cooperation and dialogue, and is fully committed to an active, regular and enduring exchange of views.

During the Italian EU Council presidency, the Swiss Federal Assembly was invited to attend the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) for the first time. Although we were unable to participate because the conference was being held in Rome at the same time as the winter session of our parliament, the possibility of future participation represents a significant step towards strengthening interparliamentary cooperation and dialogue with our most important partners, the member states of the EU.

To this end, it would be a special honour for me to be part of the first Swiss delegation with observer status at the meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC and the Plenary Meeting of the LIII COSAC. The opportunity to participate in further interparliamentary events planned during the Latvian EU Council presidency would not only be in keeping with the call for more parliamentary involvement, but would also make a valuable contribution to strengthening bilateral relations.



I would like to express my appreciation for your favourable consideration of this request to participate as a delegation with observer status both in the forthcoming COSAC meeting and at other interparliamentary conferences under the Latvian presidency, as well as for your valuable contribution to strengthening bilateral relations.

It is a particular concern of mine that we pursue our dialogue on European policy in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, so that we can continue to work successfully on finding common solutions. With this in mind, I would like to wish you an agreeable end to this year and a successful and enriching EU Council Presidency in 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kathy Riklin, National Councillor  
President of the EFTA/EU Delegation