



Staten-Generaal

H.E. Ms Federica Mogherini
Vice-President of the European Commission
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

The Hague, 26 June 2015

Dear High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini,

It was a great pleasure to welcome you at the House of Representatives on your recent visit to The Hague on 16 April. Our exchange of views was much appreciated by all Members. Further to the brief discussion we had, in the margins of your visit, about your attendance at the Interparliamentary Conference (IPC) on CSFP/CSDP, we have the pleasure to announce that the IPC during the Dutch Presidency is tentatively scheduled for 6 to 8 April 2016 in The Hague.

As active contributors to the IPC, the Dutch Parliament intends to follow up on the stimulating discussions we enjoyed during previous conferences. One of the most important items on your agenda for the year ahead is the drafting of a new EU Security Strategy. We had the pleasure of having an exchange of views with you at the IPC in Riga as part of your strategic reflection. After the extensive consultations you plan to have with governments, Parliaments, and civil society, it will be a great honour to devote a session of the IPC in April next year to a discussion with Parliamentarians about the new Security Strategy.


I would therefore like to invite you as keynote speaker for a planned session on the new EU Security Strategy in the morning of **Friday 8 April 2016**. To reflect the significance of transatlantic cooperation as part of the strategic discourse, and in light of the next NATO Summit on 8 - 9 July 2016 in Warsaw, our ambition is to organise a joint session with the Secretary General of NATO, H.E. Mr Stoltenberg, on this subject.

One of the other priorities we plan to take forward is parliamentary decision-making procedures concerning the use of EU Battlegroups. Our ambition is to prepare a scenario-based discussion on Thursday 7 April about the deployment of Battlegroups in a fictitious scenario, highlighting some of the current challenges relating to parliamentary involvement in decision-making procedures. The Dutch Minister of Defence, H.E. Ms Hennis-Plasschaert, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr Koenders, have already given their support to this scenario-based discussion for parliamentarians.

My colleagues and I are committed to organising a relevant, innovative, and engaging IPC on CFSP/CSDP in The Hague. Needless to say, we consider your participation critical to its success. I, as well as the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the EU, H.E. Mr. De Gooijer, will be pleased to further discuss your attendance at the IPC in 2016 and are open to any questions you might have.

We very much look forward to working with you and your staff in the preparation of this conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Eijssink', written in a cursive style.

Ms. Angélien EIJSINK
Chair of the Political Preparatory Group IPC CFSP/CSDP
States General of the Netherlands