

CONCEPT

To the attention of
His Excellency Yiannakis L. Omirou
President of the House of Representatives
1402 Nicosia, Cyprus

The Hague, [datum]

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your kind invitation to the Conference of Speakers of the European Parliaments in Nicosia on 21-23 April 2013 and for the preparatory documents for this conference.

During this meeting, we will discuss the important topic of how to create a conference as was referred to in Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the European Monetary Union, which in my opinion will strengthen the urgently needed democratic legitimacy in the EU.

To me, the creation of this conference is of utmost importance for us as national parliaments to be able to keep up with the developments that take place at European level. Europe is in an economic and financial crisis and the European Commission, the European Council and the Eurogroup develop answers to this crisis that affect national parliaments in their most fundamental basic rights, the budgetary right. Therefore I believe we as national parliaments cannot afford to lose too much time in discussing the details of how to create a so-called 'article 13 conference'.

For the Dutch House of Representatives, it is important that the conference will be a small, compact, practical and effective one, that deals with the issues on budgetary policy and other related issues that are mentioned in the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the EMU. Issues that can be tabled during the 'article 13 conference' can be the Banking Union, the Budgetary Union, the Economic Union and the strengthened role of national parliaments in this respect. In addition, the 'article 13 conference' should not have a decisive character.

I could very well imagine that, for efficiency reasons, an existing structure will be used to create this 'article 13 conference'. The Dutch House of Representatives would prefer the presidency of the conference to be in the hands of the parliament that holds the rotating EU-presidency. No permanent supporting structures - such as a secretariat - are needed. Further preferences would be that national parliaments decide for themselves how the delegations will be composed. The role of the European Parliament should not be of an agenda-setting character.

I sincerely hope that during the Conference of Speakers in Nicosia, we will be able to take some concrete steps forward on this issue. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting you at the Conference of Speakers in Nicosia and I wish you the best of luck in leading the discussions to an optimal solution.

Yours sincerely,

Anouchka van Miltenburg
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Netherlands