



Public Expenditure
Committee

Mr. Miguel Arias Cañete
Chair of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs
Congreso de los Diputados
Floridablanca, s/n
E-28014 Madrid
Spain

c.c. COSAC Secretariat
Mrs. L. Raulinaityte

Place and date: The Hague, 2 February, 2010
Subject: Conference Statement Improving National Accountability of EU Funds
Our reference: 2010Z02000/2010D05523

Dear Mr. Arias Cañete,

On January 28th and 29th, 2010, an Interparliamentary Conference was held in The Hague on the issue of improving national accountability of EU funds. The conference was attended by Parliamentarians from 20 Member States and by observers from several institutions, such as the European Parliament, the European Commission and various Courts of Auditors. Keynote Speakers were Mr. L. De Magistris, Chair of the Budget Control Committee of the European Parliament, Mr. J. Bonnici, Member of the European Court of Auditors, Mr. G. De Vries, Member of the Netherlands Supreme Court of Audit, and Mr. F. De Nerée tot Babberich, Member of the House of Representatives of The Netherlands.

The Conference adopted a Conference Statement. It is our pleasure to bring this Statement to your attention, in your quality as Chair of COSAC. We kindly ask you to distribute this Statement among the Members of COSAC.

Accountability of EU budgetary funds is closely linked to the general issue of EU budget reform and is directly related to the European Commission proposal on the EU Financial Regulation, scheduled for Spring 2010. We also refer to the last Plenary Meeting of COSAC, held on 5-6 October 2009 in Stockholm, which selected “the reform of the EU budget and its financing mechanism” as one of the topics to be dealt with in 2010. We recommend that this Conference Statement is used as input to COSAC’s deliberations on this issue.

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We would be grateful if you could inform us when and how this issue is going to be discussed in COSAC. Since the Statement was based on contributions from participants to the Interparliamentary Conference, we are confident that it will provide useful input.

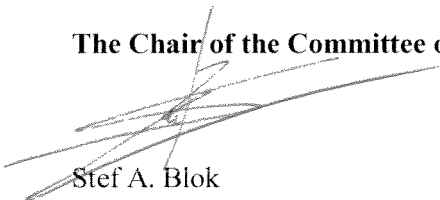
Yours Sincerely,

The Chair of the Public Expenditure Committee



Charlie B. Aptrout

The Chair of the Committee on Finance



Stef A. Blok

The Chair of the Committee on European Affairs



Harm Evert Waalkens

Annex: Conference Statement Improvement National Accountability of EU Funds, The Hague, January 29th, 2010.