

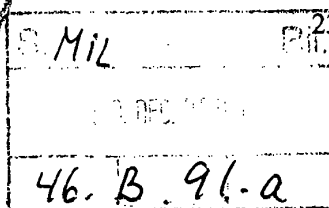


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Ms. Lisbeth Jespersen
Head of Section
Department for the Environment and
Sustainable Development
Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2, Asiatisk Plads
1448 Copenhagen K
Denmark



23 December 2004

Dear Ms. Jesperen,

In my position as Deputy Chairwoman of the steering committee of the Parliamentary Network on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (PNoUNCCD), I am writing to you today to ask for your support in preparing a conference of parliamentarians from Europe on the issue of combating desertification.

With the support of Germany's Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the UNCCD Secretariat in Bonn, a conference of parliamentarians on the topic of "The role of parliaments in combating desertification" is to take place in Berlin in the context of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 16/17 June 2005 in Berlin.

Parliamentarians from the national parliaments of the European Union and the European Economic Area and from the European Parliament responsible for this field are to be invited to participate in this event.

In order to organise the event, details of possible contact persons in the national parliaments need to be compiled. I would be grateful if you, as someone within your government responsible for issues concerning the UNCCD and the question of combating desertification, could pass on the contact details of the committee in your parliament which takes the lead on issues concerning the UNCCD and combating desertification. In addition, I would be very grateful if you could let me have the contact details of individual Members of Parliament from the government and opposition parliamentary groups who serve as rapporteurs on questions of desertification or who you know to have a special interest in this issue.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Yours sincerely,