



November, 18th, 2011

**To the President of the Danish Parliament, Mr Mogens Lykketoft
Open letter to be given to all members of the Danish Parliament**

We are very surprised to hear about the possible decision to close down the Danish Board of Technology (Teknologirådet) as part of the national budget for 2012. This will potentially cut off Denmark from the international endeavour of parliamentary technology assessment, at a time when we see an expansion of our European cooperation to a truly global network.

As Chairs and Directors of the European group of national Parliamentary Technology Assessment organisations (EPTA), we consider the Danish Board of Technology has a leading role in parliamentary technology assessment and deliberative processes. Many countries are looking to Denmark for inspiration.

Based on its unique expertise, the Danish Board of Technology is now leading a € 5,4 million project financed by the European Commission, with the aim of establishing parliamentary technology assessment in a number of European countries, especially in the Southern and Eastern part of Europe.

The need for knowledge-based policy making and the centrality of parliaments in that respect is now also increasingly acknowledged outside Europe. For example, the US Congress (GAO) applied and was accepted as a member of EPTA under the Danish presidency in 2010. At the EPTA council meeting in the Bundestag in Berlin this October, Chinese and Australian institutions were represented.

The growing interest in parliamentary technology assessment is a recognition that technology is a central element in political responses to the great challenges of our time, such as ageing societies, climate change, energy shortages, security and responsible innovation. In addition, emerging technologies such as synthetic biology, nanotechnology, geo-engineering and the ever-changing Internet all challenge established policies. The global scope of technology has to be aligned with the national level of policy making and democratic processes. We believe that the Danish Board of Technology has a key role alongside our own institutions in responding to this.

The Danish Board of Technology is particularly an innovative frontrunner in public participation. Its achievements in this area are well-known around the world, and the Board has pioneered innovative methods such as the Consensus Conference and the global citizen participation project World Wide Views on Global Warming. In 2010 the Danish Board of Technology was given the Jim Creighton Award of the International Association for Public Participation, on account of its unique expertise in, and contribution to, the practice of public participation. We are deeply concerned that the Danish Parliament could decide to close down this international best practice example and driving force.

As sister Technology Assessment organisations from across Europe, the potential loss of DBT will deprive us of a world class partner in facilitating the analyses and debates on how technological development should best serve societies, nationally and internationally.



EPTA

European Parliamentary Technology Assessment

We urge the Danish Parliament to reconsider the decision to close down the Danish Board of Technology.

With the deepest respect

Armin Grunwald, Director, Office of Technology Assessment at the German Bundestag, D

President of the EPTA Network 2011 (European Technology Assessment)

David Cope, Director, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, UK

Tore Tennøe, Director, The Norwegian Board of Technology

Jan Staman, Director, Rathenau Institute, Den Haag, Netherlands

Ferran Domínguez Garcia, CAPCIT, Lletrat del Parlament de Catalunya

Robby Berlosznik, Director, Institute Society and Technology (IST), Flemish Parliament



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European Parliamentary Technology Assessment

Helene Limen, The Parliamentary Evaluation and Research Unit (PER), Swedish Parliament

Michael Nentwich, Director, Institute of Technology Assessment at the Austrian Academy of Science

Werner Peissl, Deputy Director of the Institute of Technology Assessment at the Austrian Academy of Science

Sergio Belluci, Director, TA-Swiss, Switzerland

Paula Tiihonen, Committee Counsel to the Committee for the Future in the Finnish Parliament