



Deutscher Bundestag
Committee on Education, Research and
Technology Assessment
The Chairwoman

Berlin, November 18, 2011

**To the President of the Danish Parliament, Mr
Mogens Lykketoft**

Open letter to be given to all members of the Danish
Parliament

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Planned Closure of the Danish Board of Technology

Dear Mr. President Lykketoft,

As the holder of the 2011 presidency of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA) Network and as chair of the Committee on Research, Education and Technology Assessment at the German Bundestag I am 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. I learned that the Danish Board of Technology has a leading role in parliamentary technology assessment and deliberative processes. Many countries are looking to Denmark for inspiration. 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 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.

I urgently hope that the Danish Parliament will reconsider the decision to close down the Danish Board of Technology.

Yours sincerely,

Ulla Burchardt, MdB