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Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Chair

Dear Chairperson, dear colleague,

The NATO Chicago Summit in May will address, amongst others, the topic of how NATO can strengthen its network of partners across the globe, including through NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, the transition in Afghanistan and the new Smart Defence initiative. In this context, **Anders Fogh Rasmussen**, Secretary General of NATO, has accepted to address the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament, during its scheduled meeting of **23 April, from 2.30 to 3.30 pm**. The debate with the Secretary General will focus on the challenges which NATO is facing and, in particular, ways of enhancing EU-NATO relations.

The topics on the agenda of the NATO Summit have major implications for EU Member States. For this reason I would like to open up the meeting to colleagues in the Parliaments of the Member States of the EU and offer you the possibility to pursue the dialogue we started at the last COFACC meeting, in Copenhagen.

Furthermore, in order to complement the above debate with the EU viewpoint on Afghanistan and an update on pooling and sharing in the defence sector, I have also invited **Mr Ušackas**, EU Special Representative to Afghanistan and Head of the EU Delegation in Kabul, and **Mme Arnoult**, Head of the European Defence Agency, to attend the same meeting.

I am aware of the short notice of this invitation and regret that no other date could be found before the NATO summit. Nonetheless I very much hope that yourself or your representative can participate in the discussion which will take place on **Monday 23 April, from 2.30**, in the European Parliament's premises in Brussels. A detailed agenda will follow.

Yours sincerely,

Elmar Brok