

Modtaget i arkivet, den 21.12.2012



SGS12/015337

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

*Directorate-General A 2A  
Protocol Unit*

RUE DE LA LOI, 175

B - 1048 BRUSSELS

Tel: (32 2) 281 77.00

Fax: (32 2) 281 55.40

service.protocol@consilium.europa.eu

**NOTE VERBALE**

The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union - Protocol Service - presents its compliments to the Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union and has the honour to forward herewith a letter from Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, addressed to Ms Eva Kjer Hansen, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament.

The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union - Protocol Service - would appreciate if the Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union could forward the attached letter to its highest destination.

The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union - Protocol service - avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union the assurances of its highest consideration.

Brussels, 21-12-2012



**Permanent Representation of Denmark  
to the European Union  
Rue d'Arlon 73  
1040 Brussels**



EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT

SGS12/015337

Brussels, 21 -12- 2012

Dear Ms Kjer Hansen,

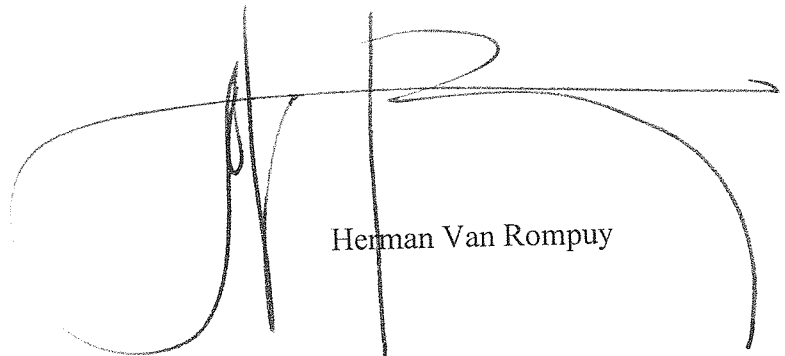
Thank you for the letter of 7 December that you signed along with a number of other Chairs or Vice Chairs of parliamentary Committees on European affairs of several national parliaments.

I am delighted that you have embarked on a joint reflection on this matter, as it is indeed parliaments themselves, rather than governments, that must be in the forefront of developing proposals on how to assure democratic accountability in a deepened Economic and Monetary Union.

The European Council meeting of 13 and 14 December 2012 concluded that "the general objective remains to ensure democratic legitimacy and accountability at the level at which decisions are taken and implemented". This means that both the European Parliament, vis-a-vis European institutions and procedures, and national parliaments vis-a-vis national governments (and their members of the Council), have a role to play. Cooperation between both levels can contribute, and this must be determined jointly by the European Parliament and national parliaments in line with Article 13 of the TSCG and Protocol No 1 to the treaties.

I look forward to exchanging views on this matter and others when I go to the inter-parliamentary meeting on the European Semester on 30 January and in other contacts I have with national parliaments. Specific accountability procedures will, of course, have to be built in as appropriate to each new instrument or procedure that we develop as we deepen our Economic and Monetary Union.

Yours sincerely,



Herman Van Rompuy

Ms Eva Kjer Hansen  
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee  
Parliament of Denmark  
Christiansborg  
DK-1240 Copenhagen K