



Committee on Constitutional Affairs
The Chair

To the Chair(s) of the Committee concerned

Subject: Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) on Tuesday 29 November

Dear Colleague,

I have the pleasure of inviting you for the Interparliamentary Committee meeting that the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) will organise on Tuesday 29 November.

We are all conscious of the enormous challenges that the European Union is facing, from the still palpable effects of the economic and financial crisis to the refugee crisis, or the threats to the security of citizens deriving from terrorism, not to mention the need to address the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and its consequences. Thus, it is crucial to discuss how the Union can best address those challenges in order to be able to carry on ensuring peace, security and prosperity for its citizens.

As the Heads of State and Government recently did in Bratislava, I believe that we, national and European parliamentarians should also exchange views on possible institutional consequences linked to such challenges. As such, I am proposing that a large part of our common discussions concentrate on the future institutional evolution of the European Union.

AFCO is currently dealing with two important reports that address this issue from a dual perspective, namely identifying what we can do together without changing the treaties (co-rapporteurs Mercedes Bresso and Elmar Brok)¹ and what actions would require treaty modifications (rapporteur Guy Verhofstadt)². The discussion on those two reports is programmed for the plenary session of the European Parliament in December. Our meeting would thus constitute a perfect occasion for a frank and open exchange on such institutional matters before the European Parliament takes a position on them. I propose that we dedicate the afternoon part of our meeting (from 15.00 to 17.15) to that discussion. At that occasion, we foresee independent contributions of two renowned experts on the matter to launch the debate.

Furthermore, two concrete and important legislative files, falling within the remit of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs are currently under discussion in the Council and have produced substantial observations by national Parliaments. They concern the proposal for a new regulation on the right of inquiry of the European Parliament³ and the proposal for the reform of the European electoral law⁴

¹ "Improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty" (2014/2249(INI))

² "Possible evolutions and adjustments of the current institutional set up of the European Union" (2014/2248(INI))

³ "Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament on the detailed provisions governing the exercise of the European Parliament's right of inquiry and repealing Decision 95/167/EC, Euratom, ECSC of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission" (2009/2212(INI))

⁴ "The reform of the electoral law of the European Union" (2015/2035(INL))

on which national Parliaments will be called to give their approval once the legislative procedure at European level is completed.

I propose that we discuss those two files during the morning part of our common meeting, which will last from 10.00 to 12.30.

Between the morning and afternoon session, all the members participating in the meeting are cordially invited for lunch.

We are therefore very pleased to invite up to four Members of your corresponding committee(s) (two of each chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting on **Tuesday 29 November 2016 from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm and from 15.00 pm to 17.30 pm**, on the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels.

You will find attached the draft programme that I am proposing at this stage.

In view of this meeting, or in the case that you and/or your Members are unable to attend, we would welcome any written contributions from your committee, which would also be distributed to the participants.

Practical details regarding the ICM will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's Representatives/Services responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

We sincerely hope that your committee will be able to accept our invitation and we are looking forward to welcoming you at the European Parliament on 29 November 2016.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Danuta Hübner

Annex: Draft Programme