

Stockholm 7 December 2009

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Dear Colleagues,

The Treaty of Lisbon has now entered into force. The Treaty assigns a new role to national parliaments in the EU. This new role will be assessed on how well it is carried out. The Treaty also implies new tasks for the European Parliament.

I am therefore delighted to see that so many of you have accepted my invitation to Stockholm on 12 December. Our meeting will be a starting point for continued activities up until the Speakers' meeting in May when the baton will be passed on to the next Presidency.

My aim for the 12 December meeting is that we bring up priority issues that need to be addressed and agree on a format for the continued process.

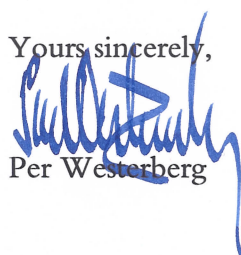
As for the proceedings, I intend to include a session of working groups on the agenda. The format and working methods for the EU Speakers' Conference has previously been discussed from time to time. A desire to revitalise these meetings and open up for real discussions and dialogue among participants has been expressed. The idea of including an informal session in the limited format of the Speaker together with one adviser has been a much-appreciated initiative at the two latest conferences. I believe the working group format will allow for more lively discussions and give more colleagues the opportunity to take the floor.

I foresee no formal speeches during plenary session, but interventions and short remarks not exceeding 3 minutes.

Finally, I would like to open the door to those of you who wish to forward written contributions before the meeting, as food for thought.

I am looking forward to seeing you all and to our discussions next week.

Yours sincerely,



Per Westerberg