Parlamentul României
Camera Deputaților

ROMÂNIA

***President***

Bucharest, March 2011

Dear Mr. President,

I have been keenly following your efforts aimed at identifying a consensus proposal regarding the future parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). I would like to commend you on your dedication to delivering a reliable and useful framework for parliamentary oversight in the area of EU foreign and security policy.

The relevance of the subject has been amply demonstrated, inter alia, by the intense inter-parliamentary exchange that followed your initial proposal. If there is one thing that all our EU parliamentary chambers agree upon, that is the need to ensure a democratic and legitimate successor to the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly, able to act in the interests of our citizens while enhancing inter-parliamentary co-operation in the field of EU foreign and security policy.

As any initiative of significant consequence, a viable parliamentary oversight mechanism for EU foreign policy should be undergirded by a number of clear principles and values that reflect the need to act in the interest of our citizens. In the view of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies, these principles must necessarily include the provision of equal, symmetrical representation of all legislative chambers of the Union, including of the European Parliament, as a testament to the fact that EU Parliaments assemble as a collegial body of peers; giving full consideration to the need to avoid duplication of institutional fora and to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness of resources, including by considering the COFACC and CODAC as a starting point for the new Parliamentary mechanism; using existing models, such as COSAC, and making use of institutional resources currently used to support the activity of European affairs parliamentarians; integrating the parliamentary scrutiny of EU foreign policy into the activities of the EU Council Presidency Troika.

In closing, allow me to express my full confidence that the upcoming EU Speakers Conference will represent a key milestone in the process of creating a monitoring mechanism for EU foreign policy. I very much look forward to meeting you in Brussels and ask you to please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Roberta Alma ANASTASE

**H.E. Danny Pieters**
**President**
**Senate of Belgium**