

Oslo, 18.06.2019

Dear President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you most sincerely on your election as Speaker of the Finnish Parliament. I hope we will have the opportunity to meet soon, preferably at the annual meeting of the Nordic Baltic Speakers Conference in Tallinn in September.

I am also writing to you in relation to the inter-parliamentary conferences that the Eduskunta is organising within the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the forthcoming Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

I am aware that the calendar of your presidency includes a number of highly interesting parliamentary events. Norway is closely associated with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement and a number of other agreements. With the EU and Norway so deeply integrated, we share a common interest in increased cooperation and knowledge sharing. Participation in the meetings forecasted provides an important and valuable opportunity to this end.

I am aware that for certain meetings the Finnish EU Presidency would need to consult with its troika partners and the European Parliament before extending invitations to special guests. Notably this is the case for the COSAC chairpersons and the COSAC plenary meetings as well as the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU.

Honourable Matti Vanhanen President of Parliament of the Republic of Finland I would be very grateful if you would forward this letter to the chairpersons of the standing committees responsible for those meetings to facilitate these consultations.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success as Speaker of the Finnish Parliament as well as with the EU Presidency of Finland this autumn.

Looking forward to a close cooperation, I remain

Yours faithfully,

Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen