



COMMITTEE FOR
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Paris, December 6, 2017

THE PRESIDENT

Mr Chairman,

In accordance with the treaties, the European Union has exclusive competence to negotiate trade agreements. On the basis of the mandate given by the Council, the European Commission is thus called on to negotiate numerous agreements with different States.

As it has been brought to light with the discussions on a transatlantic trade treaty with the USA or more recently the controversies regarding the agreement with Canada, those trade agreements constitute a major challenge for both the sectors concerned and their consequences on collective preferences, possibly even on our fellow citizens' daily life.

Under these circumstances, it is essential for national parliaments to be fully involved in the process of reaching an agreement. It was also the position expressed by President Juncker in his State of the Union Address.

To respond to this requirement, it seems particularly relevant to me that this question could be put on the agenda of the COSAC's plenary meeting that will be held under your presidency beginning January 1, 2018. Such a debate would enable our colleagues to share their parliaments' experiences on the follow-up of trade negotiations, to usefully exchange information on their effects in member States and to initiate a dialogue with the representatives of EU institutions.

If you were to answer positively to my request, I would be quite prepared and willing to present the major issues of the negotiation of these trade agreements and to assess the place of national parliaments in the negotiation and reaching processes.

Thanking you in advance for the consideration you will give to my approach, please accept, Mr Chairman, the expression of my best consideration.

Jean BIZET

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