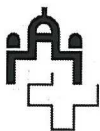


Bundesversammlung

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Federal Assembly



Swiss Delegation to the
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Mr Kristian Ivanov Vigenin
Chairman of the Committee on Euro-
pean Affairs and Oversight of the Euro-
pean Funds of the National Assembly
Republic of Bulgaria

6 December 2018

Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation

Dear Mr Vigenin

On behalf of the Swiss delegation for relations with European institutions and their member states, I would like to congratulate you on Bulgaria's imminent and first presidency of the Council of the European Union. Endeavouring to contribute to strengthening dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation, the Swiss delegation for relations with the European Parliament and its member states continually strives to foster active, lasting and recurring exchanges.

Together with Estonia and Austria, Bulgaria has prepared an ambitious 18-month programme which provides a forward looking agenda revolving around citizens' expectations tackling together our common challenges, strengthening trust in the European Union, bringing it closer to citizens and simplifying life and business by delivering tangible results. These priorities are of importance for Switzerland as well. Hence, we would be pleased to have an ongoing exchange of view with the member states of the EU on these topics.

In that context, I would be honoured to be able to represent a Swiss delegation at the inter-parliamentary meetings to be chaired by the Bulgarian Council presidency during this year. I am certain that Switzerland's participation at future inter-parliamentary meetings during the Bulgarian presidency of the Council of the EU would be of mutual benefit for the EU and Switzerland to strengthen bilateral relations – as important political and economic partners.

In my capacity as president of the delegation for relations with the European Parliament and its member states, I would be very grateful if you would consider Switzerland's request to attend the forthcoming inter-parliamentary meetings planned during Bulgaria's presidency as a special guest.



It is a particular concern of mine that we pursue our dialogue on European policy in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, so that we can continue to work successfully on finding common solutions. With this in mind, I would like to wish you a successful and enriching EU Council Presidency in the first half of 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Aeschi', located to the right of the text.

Thomas Aeschi
Member of the National Council
President of the EFTA/EU Delegation