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Swiss Delegation to the
Parliamentary Committee of EFTA
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Mr Luciano Busuttil

Chairman of the Foreign and European
Affairs Committee of the House of Rep-
resentatives of the Republic of Malta

14 November 2016

Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation

Dear Mr Busuttil,

On behalf of the Swiss delegation for relations with European institutions and their member states, I would like to congratulate you on Malta's imminent 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.

Since the Italian presidency in 2014, a delegation from the Swiss Federal Assembly has been invited to attend the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC). Switzerland's participation in these meetings has contributed greatly to strengthening dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation with its most important partners, the members of the EU.

Because of this, and in view of H.E. Mr Angelo Farrugia's pleasant letter to the president of the Swiss National Council, Christa Markwalder, I would be honoured to be able to represent a Swiss delegation at the next meeting of the chairpersons of COSAC, and at the COSAC plenary meeting. I am certain that participation at future inter-parliamentary meetings during the Maltese presidency of the Council of the EU would provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations between the EU and Switzerland – 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 meetings of COSAC as a special guest, as well as at future inter-parliamentary meetings planned during Malta's presidency.



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 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Aeschi

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