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**To the  
Secretaries General of the  
EU Speakers' Conference**

Dear Colleague,

Article 3.3 of the Stockholm Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments foresees that "The Secretaries-General or other designated officials shall submit proposals in situations where the relevant parliament is unable to assume the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers" [according to the normal rotation].

As you are aware, the Finnish Eduskunta saw itself obliged to cancel the Helsinki EUSC, foreseen for 17 – 19 May 2020, owing to the COVID19 epidemic. Our decision to cancel rather than postpone the Conference is based on the uncertainty of when parliaments will be able to return to their normal activities. As there is a possibility that extraordinary measures may continue to apply next autumn, we believe that Speakers will be unable to commit themselves to attend a postponed Conference at an early enough date to prepare Conclusions.

The Eduskunta would like to propose the following interim arrangements, to be agreed by written procedure:

1. The German Bundestag and Bundesrat assume the Presidency of the EUSC on 19 May 2020. (Cf. Art 3.5 of the EUSC Guidelines).
2. The Eduskunta assumes the chair of the IPEX Board on 19 May 2020. A virtual meeting by e-mail or teleconferencing may replace the next IPEX Board meeting, foreseen for June 2020, if the situation requires.
3. The three documents (revised guidelines on interparliamentary cooperation; on the use of technical means in interparliamentary cooperation; and on the Eurojust ICM) approved at the Helsinki meeting of Secretaries General, will be carried forward to the Berlin EUSC.

I should be grateful for your agreement or comments to these proposals at your earliest convenience, and in any case by 24 April 2020. Please reply by e-mail only to [peter.saramo@eduskunta.fi](mailto:peter.saramo@eduskunta.fi). (Recent experience has shown postal mail to involve the risk of delay or non-delivery of important documents.)

Yours sincerely,

Maija-Leena Paavola  
Secretary General  
Parliament of Finland