

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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Domagoj Ivan Milošević
Chair, European Affairs Committee
Parliament of Croatia

6 May 2020

Dear Mr Milošević,

Firstly please allow me to express my deep regret regarding the earthquake that affected Zagreb on 22 March 2020, damaging the premises of the Croatian Parliament, as well as the disruption which this, in combination with the global COVID-19 outbreak, has caused to the parliamentary dimension of the Croatian Council Presidency.

As you are aware, the United Kingdom ceased to be a Member State on 31 January, following which we entered into a transition period during which most EU law continues to apply to the United Kingdom, albeit on the basis of a different treaty (the Withdrawal Agreement).

The House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee was recently appointed following the General Election and we intend to continue to closely scrutinise EU legislative proposals that may apply to the UK or continue to have significant implications for it. Our recent report on the EU response to the Covid-19 global pandemic¹ is an example of this continuing work. I can also assure you that the House remains fully committed to maintaining dialogue with its interlocutors in EU national Parliaments and considers COSAC - which I have attended on countless occasions over the years - to be an excellent means to maintain this exchange of views.

While the physical meeting of the LXIII COSAC will no longer take place in Zagreb, I understand that consultations within the Troika continue various alternative solutions, with an electronic exchange of views remaining a possibility. I thus wish to confirm that the House of Commons would be grateful to continue to receive invitations to participate in COSAC and any other (virtual) interparliamentary meetings held during the remainder of the Croatian Presidency, in accordance with Rule 3.3 of the COSAC Rules of Procedure.

On a related note, I enclose a letter of intent which confirms that the House of Commons wishes to commit to the co-financing of the COSAC Secretariat for the period up to 31 December 2020.

I look forward to our continuing cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Sir William Cash
Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee

¹ EU response to COVID-19 must be factored into Government strategy, says European Scrutiny Committee ([1 April 2020](#)).

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LETTER OF INTENT

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CO-FINANCING OF THE PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE COSAC SECRETARIAT AND THE COSTS OF THE RUNNING OF THE OFFICE AND WEBSITE OF COSAC

On behalf of the United Kingdom House of Commons, I wish to indicate that our Chamber is prepared to take part in the co-financing of the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat and the costs of running the office and website of COSAC. This undertaking is given subject to the conditions specified below:

1. The commitment to participate in the co-financing is valid from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020.
2. The commitment is valid only if national Parliaments of at least thirteen other Member States make a similar commitment.
3. The commitment is to pay a share of the cost of maintaining the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, and of necessary technical costs for the office and the web presence, up to a maximum expenditure of eighty thousand Euros (€80,000) per year. The type of expenditure for which the contribution may be used ("approved expenditure") is defined in paragraph 4. The share is calculated by dividing the approved expenditure, up to €80,000, by the number of Parliaments taking part in the co-financing. The maximum contribution per Parliament is €5,714.29 per year (i.e. 1/14 of €80,000).
4. The contribution may be used by the administering Parliament for the costs of running COSAC's office (including, but not limited to official travel, computer, telecommunications and stationery costs) and to help cover the ancillary costs, in excess of salary and salary-linked payments, of maintaining a staff member in Brussels (including, but not limited to away-from-home allowances, housing in Brussels, allowances for travelling home, removal costs on appointment and end-of-service). The contribution is not to be used towards the regular salary paid by the administering Parliament or for salary-linked payments (including payroll, taxes, pension contributions, etc.).
5. If the administering Parliament's approved expenditure is less than €80,000, the contribution will be calculated as a share of the actual expenditure. If the lump-sum contribution does not cover the approved expenses (cf. paragraph 4), the deficit will be absorbed by the administering Parliament.

Signature _____

Title Chair, European Scrutiny Committee

Parliament House of Commons

Date _____