



## STORTINGET

Oslo, 14 December 2021

Dear Presidents,

I am addressing you in relation to the parliamentary dimension of the forthcoming French Presidency of the Council of the European Union to ask if the National Assembly and the Senate would be willing to extend invitations to Norway for the parliamentary meetings anticipated during the EU Presidency of France.

France will be taking over the EU presidency in an extremely challenging time for Europe and the rest of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic is by no means over and continues to have an unprecedented impact on many policy areas. At the same time, there are many other important challenges ahead of us, not least in climate change.

I am aware that you have scheduled a number of highly interesting parliamentary events over the next months, COVID-19 considerations permitting.

The Norwegian Parliament enjoys close cooperation with many national parliaments in the EU. Having recently been elected as the new President of the Norwegian Parliament, I would like to continue to develop this collaboration.

Norway is closely associated with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement and a number of other agreements. With the EU and Norway so deeply integrated, we share a common interest in increased cooperation and knowledge sharing. Participation in the meetings forecasted, whether in the form of physical or digital meetings, would provide an important and valuable opportunity to this end.

Honourable Richard Ferrand  
President of the French National  
Assembly

Honourable Gérard Larcher  
President of the French Senate



I know that for certain meetings, the French EU Presidency would need to consult with its troika partners and the European Parliament before extending invitations to special guests. Notably this is the case for the COSAC chairpersons and the COSAC plenary meetings as well as the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU.

I would be very grateful if you would forward this letter to the chairpersons of the standing committees responsible for those meetings to facilitate these consultations. I very much hope Norwegian Parliamentarians will be able to participate in the parliamentary conferences during your presidency.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success with the EU Presidency of France this spring.

Looking forward to continued close cooperation, I remain

Yours faithfully,



Masud Gharahkhani