



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President

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*Dear Mr Miškulin,*

*On behalf of President von der Leyen, I would like to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 16 June 2020, informing the Commission about your positions and suggestions regarding, among others, the common European response to the coronavirus outbreak and its repercussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, and the Conference on the Future of Europe.*

*I am very pleased that I could participate in the extraordinary meeting of COSAC's Chairpersons held on the same day and focussing on the same topics. I would like to thank the Croatian COSAC Chair and the Presidential Troika of COSAC for organising it successfully by videoconference. It is essential that inter-parliamentary cooperation continues, even under those difficult circumstances.*

*The Commission welcomes the call of COSAC members for a common European response to the coronavirus outbreak and for solidarity among Member States, and appreciates their support for this action. The economic and social impacts differ between Member States. It could lead to damaging divergences across the Union that would put at risk the Single Market. A strong European response is therefore essential and in the interest of all, considering the high level of integration of our European economies.*

*The Commission is therefore particularly grateful that members of COSAC emphasise the importance of the timely adoption of the MFF 2021-2027 and of the Recovery Plan. After the adoption by Council of the decision on own resources, national Parliaments will, in most countries, have a direct responsibility when approving it – in accordance with the constitutional requirements in each Member State. The Commission is confident that they will do their utmost to facilitate the swift entry into force of its proposals, which are essential for creating a new dynamism in our economies and societies. We have no time to lose in order to repair and prepare for the future.*

*./..*

*Mr Domagoj Ivan Milošević  
Chair of the European Affairs Committee  
Croatian Hrvatski sabor*

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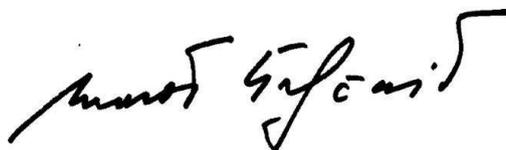
*This is another reason why the Conference on the Future of Europe is now more important than ever. We must learn the lessons from this crisis by closely involving our citizens and communities. As a bottom-up exercise, the Conference will be an excellent opportunity to engage and involve all Europeans in shaping the future of the Union. The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission are currently negotiating a Joint Declaration on the scope, objectives and structure of the Conference. I would like to reassure you that the Commission has taken note of your views and will strive to take them into account whenever possible. The Commission counts on the support of all national Parliaments for making this Conference a success once we have launched it.*

*The Commission shares the regret of the COSAC members that the United Kingdom has left the European Union and will furthermore leave the Single Market and the Customs Union as of 1 January 2021. The Commission respects the choice of the British government and the result of the 2016 referendum. For the future of Europe, the Member States remain united in seeking a comprehensive agreement on the future relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom. The Commission will keep COSAC members informed about the negotiation and the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, notably with regard to citizen's rights and the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the Commission has already intensified work on supporting Member States in the preparation of the inevitable changes that will occur in the trade between the European Union and the United Kingdom independently from the outcome of the negotiations.*

*The Commission would also like to thank the members of COSAC for their support for the enlargement policy and the European perspective of the Western Balkans. The opening of accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia sent a clear message of encouragement to pursue the necessary reforms towards the EU, not only in those two countries, but also to the Western Balkans region as a whole. It also reaffirmed and delivered on the EU's commitment to the European perspective of the region. The Commission remains fully committed to continue supporting the candidate countries and potential candidates in their reform efforts.*

*I look forward to continuing the political dialogue with national Parliaments in the future.*

*Yours sincerely,*



Maroš Šefčovič