

JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dr Miro Kovač
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Croatian Parliament

Dear Mr Kovač,

Allow me to thank you once again for the kind invitation you addressed to me, to take part as a keynote speaker to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for CFSP/CSDP (IPC) in Zagreb.

As I assured you during our meeting in Brussels, in December, I attach great importance to dialogue with national parliaments and particularly to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for CFSP/CSDP, the only forum in which the European Parliament and all EU Member States and candidate countries' Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees can be addressed together. For this reason, I confirmed my participation in the closing session on 4 March and I have been doing all I could to make it possible.

However, I regret to inform you that I will after all need to cancel my participation.

The escalation in the north-western Syrian province of Idlib, creating untold human suffering and pushing migrants up against the border between Greece and Turkey, has forced me to revisit my programme.

As a result, I had to go to Ankara together with Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič, with a view to hold talks with the Turkish authorities.

I trust you will understand that the unfolding of events in Europe's neighborhood left me with no other choice but to cancel my participation to the IPC.

Yours sincerely,



Josep Borrell Fontelles