



Staten-Generaal

To: The chairs of the European Affairs Committees
of the national parliaments of the European Union and
the chair of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs of
the European Parliament.

The Hague, November 16th, 2017

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Standing Committees on European Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Netherlands, we have the honour to share with you attached position paper "Opening up closed doors: Making Europe more Transparent for its Citizens."

This paper has been written with a view to the upcoming COSAC plenary meeting in Tallinn. Pieter Omtzigt, MP, will present this paper during the session on the theme "Bringing Europe closer to its citizens."

Our committees believe that one of the ways to achieve greater involvement of citizens in the EU, is to improve the transparency of the EU's political decision-making, especially when it concerns legislation. Currently, the negotiation processes within the institutions are too hard to follow for outsiders. This harms the creation of a European public space, in which citizens, stakeholders, media and civil society can discuss the laws and policies the EU is about to decide on. We need this input from society in order to perform our scrutinizing role as parliaments. In other words, greater transparency does not only benefits citizens, but also benefits our position as their representatives.

In the present position paper, we present a number of measures that would make the EU's legislative process more accessible. We wholeheartedly hope you can support this. At the COSAC meeting, there will be a letter available for delegations to sign, in which we call upon the relevant EU institutions to adopt the measures put forward in this paper. In order to make sure our message resonates well, we invite all delegations to discuss these issues with their governments in their capitals after our meeting in Tallinn. We propose to take stock of the progress made at the next plenary meeting in Sofia.

Yours sincerely,

Malik Azmani
Chairman of the Standing Committee
on European Affairs
House of Representatives of the Netherlands

Bastiaan van Apeldoorn
Chairman of the Standing Committee
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