

**To the attention of Presidential Troika of COSAC:
Mr. Kristian Ivanov Vigenin
Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs
and Oversight of the European Funds
of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Dear Mr. Vigenin,

On behalf of our parliaments we have the honour to congratulate you on the active and constructive conduct of the parliamentary dimension of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council. It goes without saying that the European Union today is facing dramatic challenges both from within and outside. Contribution of the Bulgarian Presidency in tackling those challenges is more than significant.

We would like to address you with the following issue. By signing the Association Agreements with the EU we reiterated our commitments to the fundamental values of the European Union. Having ratified the Association Agreements with our countries along with the granting visa free regime to our citizens the European Union recognized our achievements on this track.

We, the associated partners, are very much interested in further deepening our political dialogue with the EU as well as with the Member States in the parliamentary dimension. Participating in the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) gives us additional opportunity to develop our interparliamentary dialogue with parliaments of the Member States. At the moment this participation always takes place on an ad-hoc basis and demands special procedure of an approval of our formal requests by the Presidential Troika of COSAC. Granting to our states permanent status of Associated Partners would enable our delegations to enjoy full-fledged participation in the COSAC meetings on a permanent basis. Thus we kindly ask you to consider possibility of initiating relevant amendments to the COSAC Rules of Procedure.

Having done so the EU would send additional strong signal of political support by engaging associated partners into the interparliamentary dialogue. Such a step would also go in line with the Association Agreements between the EU and our countries which call for further development and strengthening of the political dialogue between the Parties in all areas of mutual interest.

We look forward to our meeting at the LIX COSAC and to hearing from you on this matter. Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mariia Ionova

Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on European integration

Tamar Khulordava

Chairperson of the Committee of the Parliament of Georgia on European integration

Ivanov Violeta

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on Foreign Policy and European Integration