



Abgeordneter
zum Nationalrat der
Republik Österreich

Vienna, 17 January 2018

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on EU-Affairs of the Austrian National Council and as a member of the COSAC-Troika I have the honour of being one of the members of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently".

When we talk about a successful future Union where citizens have trust in the EU's actions, it is crucial to finally put the principle of subsidiarity at the centre of European policy by making decisions at the right level. In this regard, I share the view that the Union should focus on delivering more and better in important policy areas while abstaining from action in areas where there is little or no added Union value.

Subsidiarity is an essential condition for the European project to successfully progress and win back the trust of citizens. Therefore, strengthening the principle of subsidiarity and at the same time strengthening the EU do not contradict each other.

I strongly believe that the Task Force is an important step in the right direction. Its composition as laid out in the decision of the President of the European Commission of 14 November 2017 is well balanced as it includes representatives from the European, Regional as well as National levels.

I therefore regret that it has come to my attention that the European Parliament will not join this Task Force. As this development is of highest relevance for the work of the Task Force, I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to include this topic on the agenda of the meeting of the Presidential Troika of COSAC on 21 January 2018 in Sofia. Furthermore, I suggest expressing our disappointment about the decision taken by the European Parliament in a letter addressed to President Tajani.

Looking forward to a fruitful discussion on this topic I remain

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reinhold Lopatka', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Reinhold Lopatka

Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on EU-Affairs
National Council — Austrian Parliament

Mr. Kristian Vigenin
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds
National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

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