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Mr Claude Bartolone  
Speaker of the National Assembly  
Palais Bourbon  
126, rue de l'Université  
F-75007 Paris

Mr Speaker,

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposal by the National Assembly for a parliamentary conference on budget policy.

The proposal is thought-provoking and I agree entirely with the underlying view of the proposal, that national parliaments also bear responsibility for the governance and supervision of the EU processes for economic policy coordination.

It is also my conviction that our parliaments have much to learn from each other when they take on this responsibility.

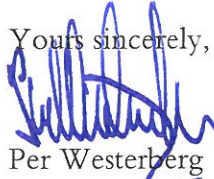
In discussions on the various forms of interparliamentary exchange, I would particularly like to put forward three general starting points.

- Firstly, we should consider the opportunities offered by existing forms of cooperation.
- Secondly, we should give priority to an exchange between the parliamentary committees responsible, so that the experiences gained can be introduced in a natural way into the day-to-day work of each of the parliaments.
- Thirdly, we should strive for efficiency in that we assess our cooperation from the point of view of the costs that are inevitably incurred, for example regarding possible secretariat functions. If these costs are to be transparent, it is vital that they are borne by the national parliaments.

**In my opinion, these starting points should make us explore the potential of the regular meetings between the Chairs of our Committees on Finance and Budgets which are arranged every six months by the parliament of the member state holding the Presidency. It is my opinion that those participating in these meetings must themselves have the final say as regards the forms of cooperation.**

As you understand, there are pre-conditions for intense and interesting discussions in future, which I am very much looking forward to. At the same time, I would like to emphasise that the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union is at present being considered in the Riksdag and what I suggest here is not in any way intended to forestall the outcome of the Riksdag's consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Per Westerberg  
Speaker of the Riksdag