

President Herman Van Rompuy  
President of the European Council  
European Council  
Rue de la Loi 175  
B-1048 Brussels  
Belgium

**Parliament of Denmark**  
**European Affairs Committee**

Christiansborg  
DK-1240 Copenhagen K  
Tel. +45 33 37 55 00  
Fax +45 33 32 85 36  
[www.ft.dk](http://www.ft.dk)  
[ft@ft.dk](mailto:ft@ft.dk)

7 December 2012

Dear Mr. President

In all European Union Member States we are currently struggling to tackle the sovereign debt crises that has shaken markets and sparked unprecedented austerity and protests across Europe.

As national parliamentarians we are genuinely worried about the European project and deeply engaged in the struggle to get our economies back on a sustainable track - through the adoption of difficult structural reforms and sound fiscal policies.

Therefore when Europe in the near future moves into a more integrated financial, budgetary and fiscal union, we will find ourselves facing a very important democratic challenge.

Particularly the creation of the European Semester and the gradual move towards a fully fledged integrated budgetary and Economic framework will touch upon the very heart of national parliamentary democracy. But also a more integrated financial union call on national parliaments to reflect about their role in anchoring the EU democratically, because supervision, crisis management and resolution of banks are still very much organized along national lines.

Despite the European Council's recent call for strong mechanisms for democratic legitimacy and accountability, there is a worrying lack of proposals as to how the role of national parliaments can be strengthened more concretely. Members of national parliaments, being close to citizens, have a special role to play in establishing links between citizens of our Member States and European decision-making.

For that reason members of 11 national parliaments gathered in Copenhagen on 26 November to discuss how a more integrated financial, budgetary and economic union could be accompanied with strong mechanisms for democratic legitimacy and accountability. At our meeting we had an initial exchange of views on this question and various ideas were put on the table. We agreed that further involvement of national parliaments in the debate is necessary.

We would therefore like to discuss some of these ideas and proposals with you as to how national parliaments could be more actively involved in further strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the European Union.

Finally we would like to thank you and the European Council for having included the important question of democratic legitimacy and accountability in the debate about shaping a genuine economic and monetary union and not least for your commitment in the interim report of 12 October to securing the pivotal role of national parliaments in this regard.

We therefore look forward to hearing from you about how we can contribute to this important debate about the future of Europe. We remain at your disposal for any further information and would welcome to participate in any consultations you may find appropriate.

Yours sincerely



**Ms. Eva Kjer Hansen,**  
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament

**Mr. Christophe Caresche,**  
Vice-president of the European  
Affairs Committee of the National  
Assembly of France

**Ms. Gabriele Molitor,**  
Deputy Chairwoman of the Com-  
mittee on the European Union of  
the Bundestag

**Mr. Ben Fayot,**  
Chairman of the Committee on  
Foreign and European Affairs of  
the Parliament of Luxembourg

**Mr. Paulo Mota Pinto,**  
Chairman of the European Affairs  
Committee of the Parliament of  
Portugal

**Mr. Dominic Hannigan,**  
Chairman of the Joint Committee  
on European Union Affairs of the  
Oireachtas

**Ms. Astrid Thors,**  
Member of the Grand Committee  
of the Eduskunta

**Ms. Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica,**  
Chairwoman of the European Af-  
fairs Committee of the Parliament  
of Latvia

**Mr. Allan Widman,**  
Chairman of the Committee on  
European Union Affairs of the  
Swedish Parliament

**Mr. Richard Hörcsik,**  
Chairman of the Committee on  
European Affairs of the Parliament  
of Hungary

**Mr. Edmund Wittbrodt,**  
Chairman of the EU Affairs Com-  
mittee of the Polish Senate

