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EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
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PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

The President

Ms Loreta Graužinienė
Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
Gedimino pr. 53
LT-01109 Vilnius
Lithuania

203344 08.10.2013

Dear Speaker,

First of all, let me congratulate you for your recent election as new Speaker of the Seimas and wish you all the best in this particularly crucial time for Lithuania.

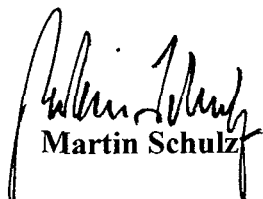
As you may know, on 25 September I phoned your predecessor, President Gedvilas, in order to discuss the organisation of an "Article 13 Conference" taking place in Vilnius on 16 and 17 October.

Following this telephone conversation, on 3 October 2013 the Conference of Presidents of the Political Groups in the European Parliament discussed the proposal by the Lithuanian Parliament concerning the Rules of Procedure with a view to the Vilnius Conference on Article 13.

The Conference of Presidents unanimously agreed that the proposal was not in line with the Conclusions reached on 24 April 2013 in Nicosia by the Speakers of EU Parliaments and goes far beyond them. In this regard, the Conference of Presidents stressed that, not only was the principle of drafting Rules of Procedure against the spirit of the Conclusions reached in Nicosia, but the content of the draft proposal was not acceptable for the European Parliament. It also agreed that, instead, the European Parliament and the national Parliaments should rather build their assessment, and evaluate the potential need for arrangements, on the experience of the first Conferences.

We are convinced that the success of the first "Article 13 Conference" should be based on the quality of discussions on substantial issues and not on lengthy procedural ones. A longer term process could be launched in Vilnius, which may eventually lead to adoption of potential practical arrangements at a later stage.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Schulz

Cc: All Speakers of national Parliaments