



**MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIC**

Vice-President of the European Commission

*Brussels,  
Ares (2021) 3831436*

*Dear Chair,*

*On behalf of President von der Leyen, I would like to thank you and the co-signatories of the presidential Troika for your letter of 1 June 2021 on the interparliamentary work carried out during the Portuguese Presidency.*

*The Commission welcomes the thorough interparliamentary work of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), to which it could contribute. We commend the Portuguese Presidency for its rich parliamentary dimension and achievements during the challenging first semester of 2021. National Parliaments' input into European policy-making in the context of our political dialogue and of the subsidiarity control mechanism is very important, and they have a central role for linking the citizens and the institutions of the European Union. This is particularly true in the current difficult circumstances, where solidarity is key for overcoming the economic and social crisis linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*The Commission is grateful to the Portuguese Presidency and to national Parliaments who did their utmost to facilitate the swift national approval of the Council Decision on EU Own Resources, which entered into force on 1 June 2021. This allowed the Commission to start borrowing money rapidly on the markets on behalf of the EU. National Parliaments will have an important role to play with respect to the national recovery and resilience plans in the framework of the NextGenerationEU. These are essential for creating a new dynamism in our economies and societies.*

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*Mr Luís Capoulas Santos*

*Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República*

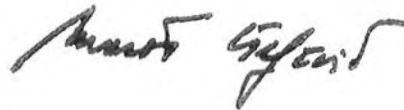
*E-mail: [COSAC-parleu2021@ar.parlamento.pt](mailto:COSAC-parleu2021@ar.parlamento.pt)*

*The Commission shares the importance COSAC attaches to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and appreciates the tireless work and ambition of the Portuguese Presidency culminating in the Porto Social Summit. We share the view of COSAC that Europe's successful recovery, based on the green and digital transitions, also depends on developing an active support to education and training, employment and social protection, with a special emphasis on youth.*

*The Commission welcomes COSAC's support to the Conference on the Future of Europe and the participation of national Parliaments in it. National Parliaments' involvement will help to ensure that the Conference goes beyond Europe's capital cities and reaches every corner of the Union. The Conference is an ideal opportunity to debate EU affairs with citizens, and the first citizens' event on 17 June and the inaugural conference plenary on 19 June showed that we are on the right track in this endeavour. The Commission relies on the support and enthusiasm of national Parliaments, in cooperation with civil society and local, regional and national authorities to make the Conference a success. We have a first-of-its-kind multilingual digital platform, which allows us to organise transnational events and will help to spark a truly European and lively debate. I encourage national Parliaments to use the platform for their events and promote it in their respective Member States.*

*I look forward to continuing cooperation between the Commission and the national Parliaments.*

*Yours faithfully,*



*Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ*