



## European Affairs Committee

Mr. Eric Nussbaumer  
President of the EFTA/EU Delegation  
of the Federal Assembly of Switzerland

Lisbon, 18 December 2020

Dear Colleague,

I would firstly like to thank you for your letter dated 30 November 2020, regarding the endeavors of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Please accept my gratitude for your kind words and wishes.

In this same letter, you requested us to consider the possibility of extending an invitation to Switzerland to participate in the COSAC Chairpersons and COSAC Plenary meeting during the Portuguese Presidency. The Rules of Procedure of COSAC foresee that the Presidency may invite special guests from other national Parliaments, after consulting troika, and that these decisions are to be taken by each Presidency, on a case by case basis.

Following consultation with the COSAC troika, we are pleased to inform that that, as President of the EU/EFTA Delegation of the Swiss Federal Assembly, you are cordially invited to attend the COSAC Chairpersons meeting which will take place on Monday, 11 January 2021, via videoconference, and also the COSAC Plenary meeting, due to be held from 30 May to 1 June 2021.



The draft agendas of the Chairperson's meeting and of the COSAC Plenary foresee debates around two of the main priorities of the Portuguese Presidency: i) the economic recovery and resilience of Europe after the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-27, to which Switzerland contributes in some flagship programmes; ii) the European social model, in which the EU provides common coordination rules that affect your country as well.

Furthermore, we reiterate the understanding of the outgoing German Presidency - that you can read in the minutes of troika meeting of 13 July 2020 - which states "In view of the economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which had requested an invitation, should be invited (...)" to attend the meetings.

Please allow me to express my wishes of good luck and success for the coming year, while looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Luís Capoulas Santos

Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República

Comissão Parlamentar de Assuntos Europeus

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