



## STORTINGET

Oslo, 01.12.2020

Dear President,

I am addressing you in relation to the parliamentary dimension of the forthcoming Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union to ask if the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal would be willing to extend invitations to Norway for the parliamentary meetings anticipated during the EU Presidency of Portugal.

Portugal will be taking over the EU presidency in an extremely challenging time for Europe and the rest of the world. The Covid-19 pandemic affects us all and has had an unprecedented impact on many policy areas. The pandemic will continue to affect us also in the years to come. For me, the crisis has demonstrated the importance of international cooperation and dialogue, including parliamentary cooperation.

I am aware that you have scheduled a number of highly interesting parliamentary events over the next months both in a digital format and if the development of the Covid-19 situation allows it, hopefully physical format. Norway is closely associated with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement and a number of other agreements. With the EU and Norway so deeply integrated, we share a common interest in increased cooperation and knowledge sharing. Participation in the meetings forecasted would provide an important and valuable opportunity to this end.

I know for certain meetings, the Portuguese EU Presidency would need to consult with its troika partners and the European Parliament before extending invitations to special guests. Notably this is the case for the COSAC chairpersons and the COSAC plenary meetings as well as the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU.

Honourable Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues  
President of Assembly of the Republic of Portugal



I would be very grateful if you would forward this letter to the chairpersons of the standing committees responsible for those meetings to facilitate these consultations and hope Norwegian Parliamentarians will be able to participate in the parliamentary conferences during your presidency.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success with the EU Presidency of Portugal this spring.

Looking forward to continued close cooperation, I remain

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tone W. Trøen', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen