

Folketingets Europaudvalg
Christiansborg, den 16. januar 2002
Europaudvalgets sekretariat

Til
udvalgets medlemmer og stedfortrædere

Brev til COSAC-formændene om tidsfrister

Hermed optrykkes et af de enslydende breve af 4. januar 2002, som Europaudvalgets formand sendte til formændene for Europaudvalgene i EU-landenes parlamenter. Tilsvarende breve er sendt til det spanske formandskab og til Kommissionen.

I brevet kritiserer Claus Larsen-Jensen den sene fremkomst af papirerne i forbindelse med Laeken-topmødet og opfordrer til, at man fremover lever op til målsætningen om at inddrage de nationale parlamenter ved at sørge for, at disse medlemmer får mulighed for at læse og drøfte de forslag, der foreligger i forbindelse med topmøderne, inden stats- og regeringscheferne tager stilling til dem.

Med venlig hilsen

Bjørn Einersen

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

Parliament of Denmark



Chairman of the UE-Committee
Mr. Sören Lekberg
Riksdagen
SE - 100 12 Stockholm

4 January 2002

To the chairmen of the European Affairs Committees in the EU member countries

Dear colleague

Re: Draft contributions for summit meetings

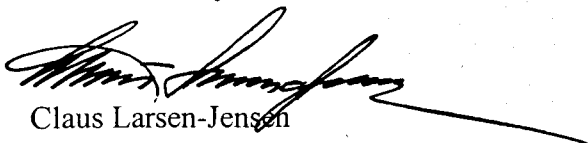
The draft contributions for the meeting of the European Council in Laeken on 14-15 December were forwarded to the national parliaments so late that there wasn't a chance for members of the European Affairs committees to read them and have a serious discussion of them before the summit meeting. The European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament finds this unsatisfactory.

The final draft of the Laeken declaration on The Future of Europe was only released during the summit meeting. Therefore there was no possibility of democratic influence on the contents. This is also unfortunate, especially when the Laeken declaration talks about an open and more transparent Union with better democratic scrutiny where national parliaments contribute towards the legitimacy of the European project.

The working method adopted by the Belgian chairmanship – and also by earlier chairmanships – is in violation of these fundamental principles.

We therefore recommend that in future the fine principles materialise in reasonable deadlines that make it possible for national parliaments and the population to be able to read and discuss the proposals before they are decided on and thus have a possibility of real influence.

Yours sincerely,


Claus Larsen-Jensen