



Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Chair

Dear Chair, dear colleague,

It is my great pleasure to invite you, together with a small delegation from your Committee, to participate in an interparliamentary meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels. The meeting will start on 1 December at 15.00 with a debate on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission, Ms Federica Mogherini, has been invited to discuss her priorities on this matter.

The entry into office of the High Representative provides a much needed impulse for a more effective EU foreign policy, and we are therefore delighted to have this debate at the outset of her mandate. As you know, we had a chance to exchange first views on future EU external relations during Ms. Mogherini's hearing in our Committee last month, and we hope to continue this important dialogue with your active participation. I believe it is crucial that we have a common understanding of the goals on the EU external action agenda. In times of crisis, as today, we need to develop a strong and coherent European voice when it comes to our foreign policy. We are the voice of the citizens in this debate, and therefore I am very much looking forward to hearing your views.

Following this discussion, the European Parliament's draft annual CFSP report will be presented in the Committee. We would be very interested to get the perspectives from national parliaments on this report as well.

During the evening of 1 December, a dinner will take place at the European Parliament. In order to allow for an informal and open discussion, this dinner would be restricted to Heads of Delegations only.

On the morning of 2 December, we will have a debate on enlargement with particular focus on the Western Balkans. The new Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Mr Johannes Hahn, and the Foreign Ministers of the Western Balkan countries have been invited to this session. This will be a timely opportunity to discuss the prospects for enlargement policy in the new European policy cycle and the situation in the (potential) candidate countries on the basis of the enlargement reports published by the Commission on 8 October 2014.

I look forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament and to a fruitful debate on 1 and 2 December.

Yours sincerely,

Elmar Brok