

European Parliament
The President

BRUXELLES

002621 17. IV. 1998

The Rt. Hon. Robin COOK, M.P.
President-in-office
Council of the European Union
175 rue de la Loi
B-1048 Brussels

Dear President,

As you know, the European Parliament attaches the greatest importance to the proposals implementing Agenda 2000, and specifically dealing with the reform of the Structural Funds and other financial instruments, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, the Pre-accession aids and the new financial framework (2000-2006), which were adopted by the European Commission on 18 March.

Parliament considers that these proposals are closely linked from a strategic, political and financial point of view and that they should therefore be considered as a whole. Taking into account the widely different procedures which apply to individual legislative proposals, and the changes in the procedures which will come into force with the ratification of the Amsterdam Treaty, it is important to find practical solutions which will enable the proposals to be dealt with globally by our three political institutions.

In this context, and given the great and political importance of these issues, the European Parliament intends to exercise fully its role of co-legislator through the use of the powers provided by the Treaties and will, as I announced to you in the Trilogue of 1 April, need to be fully associated with discussions in the Council. Moreover, along the lines of the procedure agreed for the 1993 reform of the Structural funds, Parliament will give its final agreement to the proposals only after a firm political undertaking is made by the Council, at least on the general guidelines of the proposed reforms and on the financial perspectives.

I would therefore suggest that further contacts be established in order to define interinstitutional arrangements for the treatment of these proposals, similar to those put in place in 1993, when two readings from the Parliament on all proposals, including those under consultation procedure, were specifically provided for.

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As I pointed out at our meeting on 1 April, an agreement to this global approach, which will require extensive coordination between the three institutions, will facilitate keeping to an agreed timetable enabling Parliament to organise its first examination of proposals at its second October or November part-session this year, with a view to reaching agreement in good time before the next Parliamentary elections.

I have also written to the President of the European Commission on the lines of the above.

Yours sincerely,

Copie destinée
au Cabinet du Président

José María GIL-ROBLES