

H.E. Ms Federica Mogherini
Vice-President of the European Commission
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Place and date: The Hague, March 1, 2016
Concerning: Interparliamentary Conference CFSP/CSDP, The Hague, 6-8 April 2016

Dear High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini,

It is with great disappointment that we were informed last week of your decision not to attend the next Interparliamentary Conference (IPC) on CSFP/CSDP in The Hague hosted by our Parliament on 6 to 8 April. By your letter dated 21 October 2015, you have confirmed your participation as keynote speaker at the conference, and we have proceeded to put together a programme with a leading role for you. The dates for the Conference have been set in the Spring of 2015 in consultation with your office. During the previous IPC in Luxembourg, you have specifically asked national parliaments to provide you with input for the EU Global Security Strategy review, to be discussed at this conference. Hence we have allocated time in the programme for a debate with you on this topic.

We fully appreciate that you have a very busy schedule and are faced with many competing priorities at any one time. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to strongly urge you to reconsider your attendance at the Conference. On behalf of the Dutch Parliament, as well as all the colleagues from national Parliaments and the European Parliament, who will gather in the Hague for this important event in the parliamentary calendar, we would very much regret having to mark this Conference as the first IPC that would not be attended by the HR/VP. The security challenges facing the European Union merit debate and exchange between all parliamentarians and you as the Union's High Representative for the CFSP/CSDP.

We believe your participation is paramount to the success of the Conference, as is echoed by the standing invitation included in the Rules of Procedure of the IPC. We look forward to working with you and your office to explore possibilities to ensure your participation in the Conference.

Yours sincerely,

The President of the Senate
of the States-General


Mrs A. Broekers-Knol

The Speaker of the House of Representatives
of the States-General


Mrs K. Arib

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