

Parliament of the Czech Republic
Senate
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security

Parliament of the Czech Republic
Chamber of Deputies
Committee on Foreign Affairs

Prague, 14 January 2009

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mister President,

On behalf of the foreign affairs committees of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, we would like to extend our warmest regards.

On 1 January 2009, the Czech Republic assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. On this occasion, we would like to invite you to the regular Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons of the Parliaments of the European Union, the European Parliament, and the Parliaments of the Candidate States (COFACC), which is being organised jointly by our two committees.

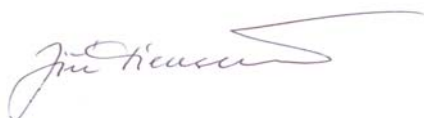
As one of its main priorities, the Czech Presidency has chosen the theme “The European Union in the World”. As we are aware that Europe has only limited opportunities to influence international events politically, transatlantic ties play an important role in this chapter. Without strong transatlantic ties, the effectiveness of EU policies and the role of the EU as a global player would be limited.

For the above reasons, we have chosen “*Security and economic dimension of the Transatlantic cooperation*” as the main topic of the COFACC.

The conference will take place in Prague on March 9 - 10, 2009, with the meeting commencing with a joint dinner on Sunday, March 8. The registration form, hotel reservation form, and other information are available on the Parliament’s website for the Czech Presidency: www.parliament.cz. The deadline for submitting the hotel reservation and registration form is **6 February 2009**. The conference programme will be sent in the very near future.

Dear Madam President, dear Mister President, we would be honoured to have representatives of your parliament take part in the conference and believe that a joint discussion – be it related to security or the economy – will strengthen our relations and contribute to greater cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Jiří DIENSTBIER
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security
Senate



Jan HAMÁČEK
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Chamber of Deputies