

COURT OF JUSTICE  
OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION

The President

Luxembourg, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Mr Pavel Svoboda  
President

European Parliament  
Committee on Legal Affairs  
Bât. Altiero Spinelli  
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Dear President,

Yesterday, I received your letter inviting me to attend the meeting of the rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs scheduled for Tuesday next week, 28 April 2015, in Strasbourg. According to that e-mailed letter, the object of the meeting is to enable members of the committee to consider the reform of the General Court in the light of all the available evidence before proceeding further with this file.

You mention that it would be greatly appreciated if the President of the General Court could also attend that meeting. Having discussed the matter with him, I am pleased to inform you that we both accept your invitation.

I am indeed firmly convinced that the utmost should be done in order to achieve the result in terms of better administration of justice in the European Union that the reform project seeks to bring about, also bearing in mind the ever increasing urgency of the situation. Our relations with Parliament, including the Legal Affairs Committee, have always been characterized by a fruitful cooperation, in mutual respect of our respective institutional roles. On that basis, I am sure that next week's meeting will be an important step in the legislative procedure that is under way for more than four years now.

In that context, let me recall that the Court took great care to provide Parliament and the Legal Affairs Committee, at any stage of the procedure, with information and evidence that may be of relevance for parliamentary debate. In April 2013, I attended a meeting of your committee in order to explain the reform project and to respond to questions. The Registrar of the Court did the same on various other occasions. Moreover, your committee held a meeting here at the

premises of the Court in Luxembourg on 3 December 2014 where it had the opportunity to discuss the details of the reform project with Members of the Court of Justice (President, Vice-President and eight other Members), the General Court (President, Vice-President and two other Members) and the Civil Service Tribunal (President and two other Members). In my recollection, there were very fruitful discussions on that day. However, I also remember that, regrettably, your rapporteur did not take part in that event. Finally, in reply to a request that you and the rapporteur addressed to me earlier this year, the Court submitted on 16 March 2015 updated evidence and more details on aspects you had identified.

It is my understanding that the meeting serves to have the views of those representing the body that has made the legislative proposal, more particularly the president of the Court of Justice representing the Institution as a whole and the president of the General Court representing one of the courts composing that Institution. Therefore, with President Jaeger and me being present along with the Chair, the rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs, the meeting will certainly have an appropriate format.

As regards the reference in your letter to “wishes that have been expressed by the committee's rapporteur”, I have to say that I am not aware of any such wish that has been communicated to me by your committee. I hear however that other people in other capacities have been asked to attend the meeting as well, this being likely to fundamentally alter the nature of the meeting. For the moment, I am inclined to consider that your letter supersedes any previous invitation and that it is for me to suggest the presence, if any, of other Members of the Court of Justice and the General Court at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Vassilios Skouris