

To the Speaker of Parliament

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON NORTHERN DIMENSION 26.10.2008, HELSINKI

INVITATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

Referring to the initial announcement sent to you before summer I have the honour of inviting a delegation from your Parliament to take part in a Parliamentary Debate on the Northern Dimension to be arranged in the Finnish Parliament in Helsinki on 26 October. The Debate will take place in conjunction with the 60th Parliamentary Session of the Nordic Council convening on the 27-29 of October 2008 in Helsinki.

As stated in the first announcement the focus of the debate is going to be on parliamentary cooperation in the region of the Northern Dimension as well as on the role of Parliaments and Parliamentarians in promoting Northern Dimension policies, including particularly the relations between the European Union and the Russian Federation. After a general introduction to the theme I would ask representatives of the European Parliament and the Russian State Duma to make the first contributions, after which the debate will be open for all participants. We ask the participants in the debate not to exceed a speaking time of 7 minutes. We gladly accept requests for the floor in advance already before arriving to Helsinki.

To this ND-debate we are inviting all parliamentarians participating in the session of the Nordic Council and also other representatives of all the parliaments of the countries around the Baltic Sea and in the contracting parties of the Northern Dimension, i.e., all parliaments participating in the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. Invited are also representatives of interparliamentary bodies of the region.

As earlier announced, the Northern Dimension Debate will take place on Sunday 26 October beginning at 17.00 hrs in the Plenary Session Hall of the Finnish Parliament and will last until 20.00 hrs. After the debate, I have the honour of inviting all participants to a Buffet Reception in the premises of the new Annex to the Parliament House.

The participants of the ND debate will be given the opportunity to follow also the Session of the Nordic Council taking place during the following days.

I express my sincere hope for a good participation to the Debate, and an interesting change of views, and wish the representatives of your Parliament warmly welcome to Helsinki.

You will find a registration form with some practical information attached to this invitation.

We kindly ask you to return the registration form either by e-mail or by fax before 3 October.

In case you need any further information or have any questions you are kindly asked to contact Mr Patrick Zilliacus, Counsellor of International Affairs or Ms Marjo Lassila, Administrative Assistant of the International Affairs at the Finnish Parliament (patrick.zilliacus@parliament.fi, marjo.lassila@parliament.fi).

Yours Sincerely,

Erkki Tuomioja

President of the Nordic Council