



Vlaams
Parlement

MODTAGET
LEDELSESSEKRETÆT

Dato 14/10-2011

Jan Peumans
Speaker

Mr Thor Pedersen
President
Folketing
Christiansborg
1240 Copenhagen
Denmark

Our reference:
INFER/dbe/110921.001

Your reference:

Date:
5 october 2011

Concerning:
International and interdisciplinary colloquium on federalism in Germany, Belgium and the
United Kingdom - 9 December 2011 - Flemish Parliament (Brussels)

Mr. President,

On 7 December 2011 the Flemish Parliament, the parliament of the Belgian federated entity of Flanders, celebrates its 40th anniversary. On the occasion of our anniversary we are organising on Friday 9 December an international and interdisciplinary colloquium on the theme of 'federalism'. Our parliament is indeed the result of a federalisation process in Belgium that commenced in the early 1970s.

We are seizing upon our anniversary as an opportunity to make a comparison between federal and semi-federal systems in 3 Member States of the European Union. The *Federal Republic of Germany*, which was established as a federal state in 1949 and can pride itself upon a long federal tradition; the *Kingdom of Belgium*, where the transformation from a unitary state to a federal state commenced in the 1970s; and the *United Kingdom*, where the devolution process commenced in 1997.

During the morning session we will discuss the 'Why' question of these 3 processes and during the afternoon session we will explore 4 specific characteristics of federal and semi-federal states.

Our colloquium will take place at the Flemish Parliament in Brussels and there are 2 working languages, Dutch and English (with simultaneous translation). I am sending you the entire program in annex.

I sincerely hope to be able to welcome you, or parliament members or officials from your parliament who are interested in this topic, on 9 December 2011.

Yours Sincerely,


Jan Peumans

Contactpersoon: Dries Bergen
tel.: 02 552 45 69
e-mail: dries.bergen@vlaamsparlement.be