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Mr Ioannis Papageorgiou and Ms Velyana Topalova

European Parliament

by email

17 April 2017

Dear Mr Papageorgiou and Ms Topalova,

Composition of the European Parliament and voting in the Council

Thank you for your query concerning the relationship between our proposals for changes to the composition of the European Parliamant and to the Council voting system. This letter is the agreed view of the four signatories listed below.

For Parliament, we have recommended adoption of the Cambridge Compromise, or, failing that, for a variant known as the Modified Cambridge Compromise (ModCamCom, by Słomczyński, Życzkowski) or the Power Compromise (PowCamCom, by Pukelsheim, Grimmett). (Note: there are minor differences in the implementations of ModCamCom and PowCamCom, but the ideas are the same, and the differences are not significant in principle.)

For Council voting we have recommended the use of the Jagiellonian Compromise (JagCom).

These two recommendations are independent. Each stands independently of the other. Any one of them is an improvement over the status quo, for reasons that we have explained in our reports.

The synergy between these two systems is very much a secondary point. It was not our intention to distract the reader by linking them, but rather to indicate a route to a triply harmonious whole. We write "triply" because the Parliament and Council would follow systems which are transparent and underwritten by strong principles, and in addition, these two systems would make a harmonious whole.

We hope these are useful comments. Please ask again if there are any further points that raise questions.

Yours sincerely,

Professors Geoffrey Grimmett (Cambridge), Friedrich Pukelsheim (Augsburg), Wojciech Słomczyński (Kraków), Karol Życzkowski (Kraków)