

Republic of Lithuania
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Vilnius, 10 February 2000

Dear Colleague!

Thank you so much for your recent letter with regard to the agenda of the new Intergovernmental Conference (IGC). The smooth functioning of the new enlarged European Union is an issue, which we take with the utmost seriousness, and I am very pleased to share my views on the expectations and agenda of the forthcoming IGC.

Lithuania is fully aware of and supports the European Union's aim to ensure the efficient functioning of EU institutions and democratic representation of its citizens. It is this efficiently functioning enlarged EU that Lithuania aspires to join. The Protocol on the Institutions with the Prospect of Enlargement of the European Union of the Amsterdam Treaty did not create foundation for the full enlargement.

Lithuania welcomes the decisions of the Union to keep the Candidate States informed about the proceedings of the IGC, and to invite them to put their points of view on related matters. It is an important step drawing future member states to the decisions that will be significant for the enlarged Union.

We associate that one of the most important goals of the IGC should be a comprehensive institutional reform that would enable the EU to admit all the states involved in the enlargement process as well as to ensure their proper representation. Only the institutional structure that ensures equal rights and fair representation of all the member states will be acceptable to the present and future citizens of the Union. We are confident that these issues will be fully reflected in the agenda of the IGC.

Lithuania welcomes the Union's determination to conclude the IGC by the end of 2000 and to ratify the results of the Conference in order to be in a position to welcome new Member States from the end of 2002. It is vital for maintaining momentum of the enlargement process.

H.E. Mr. Jaime Gama
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Portugal

I hope that Lithuania's attitude expressed above will contribute to reaching of the objectives of the forthcoming IGC. As the IGC moves further, Lithuania will keep sharing its views on the issues under consideration in the course of the Intergovernmental Conference.

May I use this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Algirdas Saudargas