



ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

*Gabinete do Presidente*

Dear Madam/Sir

In view of the up-coming European Council summit meeting in Brussels, June 21st and 22nd, I should like to forward the enclosed letter sent this week by the Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, Jaime Gama, to the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Socrates, concerning the rôle of National Parliaments within the European Union.

With kind regards,

Eduardo Ambar  
Head of Cabinet

São Bento Palace, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

*Palácio de S. Bento - 1269 - 068 Lisboa*

To His Excellency  
The Prime Minister  
Mr. José Sócrates

Prime Minister and esteemed friend (hand written),

On June 21 you are due to take part in an important Council of Europe which will debate how best to overcome the present institutional impasse in the European Union.

Irrespective of any underlying position on the question of the role of national Parliaments in the institutional architecture of Europe, allow me to stress how important I feel it is that the meeting should consolidate the protocols on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union and on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and that it should not curtail, with regard to these issues, the content of the agreement already reached in the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

I also wish to emphasise that a reference to the national Parliaments should be included in the main body of the Treaty (namely in Article 5(1) of the Draft) and that the institution of national Parliament should be referred to throughout the Treaty and the Protocols with a capital letter.

In wishing you every success in your pursuit of both Portuguese and European interests at this highly important meeting, I wish to express once more my highest consideration and esteem.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC,

JAIME GAMA

Palácio de São Bento, 18 June 2007  
Official Letter 127/PAR/07/hr

cc: The Minister for Foreign Affairs