

Professor Jaap de Hoop Scheffer
Chairman of the Advisory Council
on International Affairs
P.O. Box 20061
2500 EB The Hague

Date 4 July 2017
Re Request for advice on possible post-Brexit coalitions in the EU

Dear Professor De Hoop Scheffer,

The House of Representatives today decided, pursuant to article 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives of the States General, to submit a request for advice to the Advisory Council on International Affairs concerning the opportunities that the Netherlands will have to form coalitions in the European Union following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (Brexit).

This request is based on the motion by MP Anne Mulder et al. concerning a request for advice on the formation of coalitions with other countries post-Brexit (Parliamentary Papers, 21 501-20, no. 1229. A copy of the motion, which the House adopted on 16 May 2017, is enclosed.

The annexe to this letter sets out the request in greater detail.

On behalf of the House, I kindly ask you to honour this request.

Yours sincerely,



Khadija Arib
President of the House of Representatives
of the States General

ANNEXE

Letter of 13 June 2017 from the Registrar of the Permanent Committee on European Affairs to the Presidium of the House of Representatives

On behalf of the members of the Permanent Committee on European Affairs, I ask you, in accordance with the decision of the procedural session of 1 June 2017, to propose that the House submit a request for advice to the Advisory Council on International Affairs (AIV) concerning the opportunities that the Netherlands will have to form coalitions in the European Union following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (Brexit).

The advisory report that the House would thus request would be a follow-up to the AIV's report of 22 March 2017, entitled "Brexit means Brexit": Towards a New Relationship with the UK'. This request from the Permanent Committee on European Affairs is based on the motion by MP Anne Mulder et al. concerning a request for advice on the formation of coalitions with other countries post-Brexit (Parliamentary Papers, 21 501-20, no. 1229). The motion was adopted by the House adopted on 16 May 2017 (Proceedings of the House of Representatives, 2016/17, no. 75, item 9).

The considerations to this motion include the House's observation that with the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, the Netherlands will lose a major ally and the relationships of forces within the Union will be reshaped.

The House also notes in this motion that the AIV concluded in its recent advisory report on Brexit that, following the UK's withdrawal, the Netherlands should pursue close cooperation and coordination not only with Germany, but also with North-West European countries.

Finally, the House in this motion requests a follow-up report from the AIV, explaining with which countries such coalitions could be formed, how, and what is needed to make them possible.

House of Representatives of the States General

No. 1229

MOTION BY MP ANNE MULDER ET AL.

Introduced on 9 May 2017

The House,

having heard its deliberations,

considering that with the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, the Netherlands will lose a major ally;

considering that the UK's withdrawal will reshape the relationships of forces within the Union;

noting that the Advisory Council for International Affairs (AIV) concluded in its recent advisory report on Brexit that, following the UK's withdrawal, the Netherlands should pursue close cooperation and coordination not only with Germany, but also with North-West European countries;

requests a follow-up report from the AIV, explaining with which countries such coalitions could be formed, how, and what is needed to make them possible.

Anne Mulder
Pieter Omtzigt
Joël Voordewind