



NEW ZEALAND
Mission to the European Union
TE AKA AORERE

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European Parliament
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Dear Mara

I am writing to you about the proposed visit of a New Zealand Parliamentary Delegation to Brussels for 2013 Inter-Parliamentary Meeting. I am delighted to advise that New Zealand's Speaker has now approved such a visit, in coordination with the IPU Assembly to be held in Geneva 7-9 October 2013. The New Zealand Delegation, led by Hon Tau Henare, has advised that it would be available to travel to Brussels immediately prior to that meeting, during the week of 30 September – 4 October. We see this as an important opportunity to continue to build the relations between our respective Parliaments, and I hope that the Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand will be able to accommodate these dates.

I would also like to touch base with you on the proposed visit of the Delegation to New Zealand for the 2014 Inter-Parliamentary Meeting. Mr Speaker advised in April that all incoming visits would necessarily be strictly limited for the following 12 months until March 2014, due to an exceptionally full parliamentary calendar, including a major international conference at the beginning of the year. At that time, we contacted the Office of Inter-Parliamentary to ensure that EU-NZ IPM was taken into account in their planning. The Office responded that it would welcome a visit of the Delegation after March next year, but unfortunately it cannot accommodate a visit prior to that time. I understand that this makes scheduling a visit in 2014 somewhat complicated, given the restrictions of the European Parliament's calendar and the timing of our respective elections cycles. We would not want to see an outgoing visit fall off the agenda and would like to work with you to find a way to make it happen, including e.g. if a visit needed to be postponed until early 2015.

I would like to reiterate the value we place on direct parliamentary contacts, and that we would like to work with you to ensure the high level of engagement over the past few years continues.

Kind regards and I hope that we can find an opportunity to meet in the near future.

Vangelis
Ambassador to the EU, NATO, and Sweden

I do hope that is all workable.