



Jo Leinen

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**GREETING IN THE FRAME OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR A PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AT
THE UNITED NATIONS**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased that the steering committee meeting of the Campaign for a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations is taking place in the European Parliament.

Amongst the supporters for structural reforms of the UN and for the establishment of an UN parliament one will find many Members of the European Parliament. The campaign highlights the vast and global support for the demand of parliamentary impact on the work of the UN and better representation of citizen's interests on the global level.

The aim is to end the current democratic deficit on UN level and to control governments in their decisions. Especially in this year, in 2008, a number of global crises made it very obvious how high the degree of interdependence of states and their citizens has become.

The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were heard in the EU with enormous interest and in parts also with big concerns and caused the EU to put together a very ambitious energy and climate package. The measure foreseen in this package however, will only lead to success when all states of this world will take on their part of the responsibility. A post-Kyoto agreement with far-reaching for all states binding climate regulations is an urgent necessity. Here, the UN members need to act together, here, a parliamentary monitoring would be of immense importance, so as to secure that the governments will really follow-up on their tasks and commitments.

Be it climate change or food crisis - in democratic societies it is our tasks as parliamentarians from all levels (local, regional, national, international) to represent the interests of the people in the face of these many challenges and to implement solutions. This approach needs to be successful on the global level, too. This is why we need a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations.

I hope that the meeting of the Steering committee today here in the European Parliament will set a further milestone in this quest.

Jo LEINEN

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