

Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

Richard Raši

Bratislava, 22 September 2026

Your Excellency,

Allow me to extend my warm greetings and to inform you that, as of 1 July 2026, the Slovak Republic holds the Presidency of the Visegrad Group. One of the priorities of our Presidency is cohesion policy and the ongoing negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028–2034, which are among the key issues on the current European agenda. The decisions taken in the coming months will shape the development of our countries and regions for the next decade. National parliaments should therefore not remain on the sidelines of this discussion.

In this context, I have the honour to invite you to a meeting of Speakers of Parliament in the extended V4+ “Friends of Cohesion” format, to be held in Bratislava on 12–13 November 2026. The aim of the meeting is to send a clear signal and formulate a common position among the countries that share an interest in maintaining a strong cohesion policy.

All relevant information, including the programme and organisational arrangements, will be provided well in advance. I am confident that your participation will contribute to a common outcome that will strengthen the voice of our parliaments in the discussion on the future budget of the European Union.

The future of cohesion policy is being decided now, and the voice of the countries that regard it as a pillar of European integration will carry real weight only if expressed in unison. I am convinced that Bratislava can be the place where we jointly formulate that position. I look forward to meeting you in person.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

His Excellency

Mr Lauri Hussar

President of the Riigikogu

Republic of Estonia

Tallinn