



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Hrvatski sabor for its opinion on the Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe.

Making the European Union more democratic has been one of this Commission's ten priorities since taking office, and obviously will continue to be so in the context of the ongoing discussions on the reform of the European Union.

In the same vein, inclusion and equality of the Member States has always been a guiding principle for the Commission. The adoption of a White Paper on the Future of Europe marks the beginning of a process for the EU27 to decide on the future of their Union. The starting point for each of the scenarios in the White Paper is that the 27 Member States move forward together as a Union.

On the occasion of an EU27 Informal Meeting on 10 March 2017, President Juncker made clear that the current Treaties already allow for a multitude of forms of cooperation in groupings across all Member States, and therefore this possibility should not be presented or understood as something new undermining the European Union's unity.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Hrvatski sabor for the enlargement process. Enlargement remains a key policy of the European Union. The enlargement process is built on strict but fair conditionality and the principle of own merit. This is crucial for the credibility of enlargement policy, for providing incentives to enlargement countries to pursue far-reaching reforms, and for ensuring the support of the citizens of the European Union.

The White Paper on the Future of Europe has launched a wide-ranging debate with citizens. The Commission, together with the European Parliament and the Member States, is hosting a series of "Future of Europe Debates" across Europe's national Parliaments, cities and regions.

*Mr g. Gordan JANDROKOVIĆ
Speaker of the Hrvatski sabor
Trg sv. Marka 6
HR – 10 000 ZAGREB*

In this regard the Commission very much welcomes that the Hrvatski sabor is also taking the initiative itself, and would wish to express its gratitude for the efforts made to promote the further development of the European Union.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*