



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.2.2018  
C(2018) 879 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the Reflection Paper on the Deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union {COM(2017) 291 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the attention that the Riksdag dedicates to the discussion on the future of the Economic and Monetary Union. The Commission shares the Riksdag's view on the importance of holding the European Union together and on promoting effective cooperation and equity between Member States, both inside and outside the euro area. The Commission would like to underline the commitment of President Juncker to the unity of the European Union, as expressed in his State of the Union address.*

*The Commission takes note of the Riksdag's view that priority should be given to efficiently implementing existing measures that have been taken to improve the functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union, rather than establishing new procedures and bodies. It wishes to recall that the economic and financial crisis that hit Europe laid bare some of the institutional weaknesses of the euro area. National economic and fiscal policies geared to stability and convergence and a stronger institutional architecture are crucial to enable the euro area to respond more quickly and decisively to future challenges.*

*As also underlined in the Reflection Paper on the Economic and Monetary Union, the Commission stresses that the process towards completing the Economic and Monetary Union should be open and transparent towards all Member States, including those that have not yet adopted the single currency. The Euro Summit of 15 December 2017 in inclusive format has also shown this ambition. The Commission also shares the view that national ownership in the process is of utmost importance. Deepening the Economic and Monetary Union has to go hand in hand with increased democratic oversight and legitimacy, following the principle of accountability at the level where decisions are taken. The Commission nevertheless underlines that a stronger Economic and Monetary Union can only be achieved if Member States accept to share more competences and decisions on euro area matters, within a common legal framework.*

*Mr Urban AHLIN  
Speaker of the Riksdag  
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*The Commission is of the opinion that action towards risk sharing needs to go hand in hand with those towards risk reduction. The Commission also acknowledges that the principle of subsidiarity continues to fully apply, especially also in the areas of labour market, social and tax policies. It however stresses that a close coordination of policies in these areas is of high importance to reduce economic and social imbalances in the European Union and to achieve a process of upward convergence among all Member States.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Riksdag and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Valdis Dombrovskis  
Vice-President*