



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.7.2017
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the White Paper on the Future of Europe. It agrees with the Riksdag's assessment of the last 60 years of European co-operation, and with its view that the European Union is 'the best tool' to tackle the numerous cross-border challenges of our time.

The Commission takes good note of your position that the starting point for the upcoming discussions on the Future of Europe should be the existing balance of competences between the European Union and its Member States. It also acknowledges your position that future defence co-operation should continue to have an intergovernmental focus. The starting point for each of the scenarios in the White Paper is that all 27 Member States move forward together as a Union.

Bringing European Union policies closer to citizens has been one of this Commission's priorities since taking office. 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. In this regard, the Commission very much welcomes that the Riksdag is actively involved in this process. The upcoming Gothenburg Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth scheduled to take place in November is also a very welcome example of Member States' involvement in shaping the Future of Europe.

The Commission would wish to express its gratitude for the efforts made by the Riksdag to promote the further development of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Mr Urban AHLIN
Speaker of the Riksdag
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