



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 23.2.2018
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Dear Presidents, dear Chairs,

The Commission would like to thank the 26 Chambers that are signatories for their letter of 19 December 2017 concerning the transparency of the legislative process in the European Union. The Commission welcomes the initiative and has taken good note of the proposals contained therein.

Enhancing transparency is one of the top priorities of this Commission, as reflected in its Political Guidelines and put into practice through several initiatives.

This Commission has taken unprecedented steps to open up the preparatory legislative process and to make it more transparent. Our aim is not to impose policies but to prepare them inclusively, based on full transparency and engagement, listening to the views of those affected by legislation. Via the 'Contribute to Law-Making' web portal, citizens and interested actors can follow a legislative initiative from the first ideas, presented in a roadmap, to the final proposal adopted by the Commission and provide comments or contributions throughout the policy making process. This openness to external feedback and external scrutiny is a guarantee to ensure we get it right.

The Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016 extends our strive to enhance transparency in the legislative process to the interinstitutional phase. Notably, the Commission is developing, together with the European Parliament and the Council, a dedicated joint database on the state of play of legislative files, so as to facilitate traceability of the various steps in the legislative process. In September 2016, the Commission adopted a proposal for a revised interinstitutional agreement on a mandatory Transparency Register covering for the first time, besides the European Parliament and the Commission, the Council. Furthermore, as President Juncker undertook in his State of the Union speech of 13 September 2017, from now on, the Commission will publish in full all draft negotiating mandates it proposes to Council concerning the negotiation of international agreements.

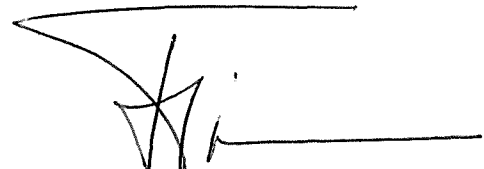
These are only a few examples of the most important initiatives aiming at bolstering transparency and openness of the European Union's decision-making process.

As indicated in your letter, the actions proposed are first and foremost addressed to the Council of the European Union. The Commission encourages any efforts leading to greater transparency and will give its support to any measures which might be decided by the co-legislators in this respect.

As regards the proposals for recasting and 'Lisbonising' Regulation 1049/2001, which have been pending with the Council since 2012, the Commission has consistently demonstrated openness to a genuine discussion with both branches of the European Union legislature and will continue to do so.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with national Parliaments to advance further our common aim of bringing the European Union closer to its citizens.

Yours faithfully,



*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Mr Malik AZMANI
Chairman of the Standing Committee on European Affairs*

*cc. Ms Khadija ARIB
President of the Tweede Kamer*

*Mr Bastiaan VAN APELDOORN
Chairman of the Standing Committee on European Affairs*

*Ms Ankie BROEKERS-KNOL
President of the Eerste Kamer*

*Mr Gediminas KIRKILAS
Chairman of the European Affairs Committee*

*Mr Viktoras PRANCKIETIS
President of the Seimas*

*Mr Peter LUYKX
Member of the European Affairs Committee*

*Mr Siegfried BRACKE
President of the Chambre des représentants*

*Ms Izabela KLOC
Chairwoman of the European Union Affairs Committee*

*Ms Christine DEFRAIGNE
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Marshal of the Sejm*

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*Mr Stanisław KARCZEWSKI
Marshal of the Senat*

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President of the Camera dei Deputati*

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Chair of the Standing Committee on EU Policies

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President of the Senato della Repubblica

Mr Angelos VOTSIS
Member of the House Standing Committee of Foreign and European Affairs

Mr Demetris SYLLOURIS
President of the Vouli ton Antiprosopon

Robin, Lord TEVERSON
Chairman of the EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee

The Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chair of the European Union Select Committee
House of Lords

Sir William CASH
Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee

The Rt. Hon. John BERCOW, MP
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House of Commons

Mr Martin KLUS
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Mr Andrej DANKO
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Mr Václav HAMPL
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Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
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Mr Ondřej BENEŠIK
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Mr Radek VONDRÁČEK
President of the Poslanecká sněmovna

Mr Stefan SCHENNACH
Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs

Mr Reinhard TODT
President of the Bundesrat

Mr Marc ANGEL
Chairman of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
Defence, Cooperation and Immigration

Mr Mars DI BARTOLOMEO
President of the Chambre des Députés

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Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs

Mr Milan BRGLEZ
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Mr László KÖVÉR
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Mr Kristian VIGENIN
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