



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 11/12/2009

C/2009/10036

Mr Svetlin Tanchev  
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs and  
Oversight of the European Funds  
Alexander I Square  
SOFIA 1169  
Bulgaria

Dear Mr Tanchev,

The European Commission would like to thank the Bulgarian Parliament for the Report adopted by the Committee on European Affairs and welcomes the broad support for the Commission's proposal COM (2009) 338 for a Council Framework Decision on the right to interpretation and to translation in criminal proceedings expressed in the Opinion.

As concerns the remarks made by the Committee, the Commission wishes to inform the Bulgarian Parliament that the provisions listed in the Opinion have all been subject to careful examination in the Council and new drafting is being considered in order to take account of Member States' concerns.

In particular, the requirement that communication between the suspect/accused and his lawyer be interpreted/translated is going to be worded in such a way as to ensure that, while the right of defence is fully guaranteed, unnecessary interpretation/translation of communication, which is not directly relevant for the participation in the proceedings, is avoided. In addition, the need for a specific procedure to ascertain the knowledge of the language will be clarified, while no unduly cumbersome procedural requirements will be imposed on Member States. Finally, the obligation to provide training under Article 5 (2) of the Proposal might be reconsidered altogether.

Yours sincerely

Margot WALLSTRÖM  
Vice-President of the European Commission