



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 23.2.2018  
C(2018) 958 final*

*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.*

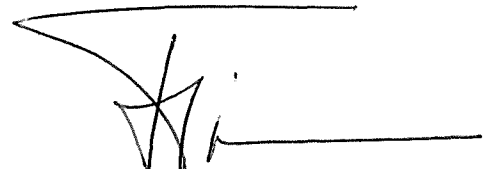
*These are only a few examples of the most important initiatives aiming at bolstering transparency and openness of the European Union's decision-making process.*

*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*

*Mr Marek KUCHCIŃSKI  
Marshal of the Sejm*

*Mr Jarosław OBREMSKI  
Deputy-Chair of the Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee*

*Mr Stanisław KARCZEWSKI  
Marshal of the Senat*

*Mr Paolo TANCREDI  
Vice-Chairman of the EU Policy Committee*

*Ms Laura BOLDRINI  
President of the Camera dei Deputati*

*Mr Vannino CHITI*  
*Chair of the Standing Committee on EU Policies*

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

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

*Sir William CASH*  
*Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee*

*Mr Martin KLUS*  
*Vice-Chairman of the European Affairs Committee*

*Mr Václav HAMPL*  
*Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs*

*Mr Ondřej BENEŠIK*  
*Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs*

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

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

*Mr Kamal Izidor SHAKER*  
*Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs*

*Ms Ioanneta KAVVADIA*  
*Vice-Chair of the Committee for European Affairs*

*Mr Richárd HÖRCSIK*  
*Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs*

*Mr Kristian VIGENIN*  
*Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight  
of the European Funds*

*Mr Erik CHRISTENSEN*  
*Chairman of the European Affairs Committee*

*Mr Edward ZAMMIT LEWIS*  
*Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee*

*Ms Gabriela CREȚU*  
*Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee*

*Ms Regina BASTOS*  
*Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee*

*Mr Jonas ERIKSSON*  
*Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO*  
*President of the Senato della Repubblica*

*Mr Demetris SYLLOURIS*  
*President of the Vouli ton Antiprosopon*

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

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

*Mr Andrej DANKO*  
*President of the Národná Rada*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH*  
*President of the Senát*

*Mr Radek VONDRÁČEK*  
*President of the Poslanecká sněmovna*

*Mr Reinhard TODT*  
*President of the Bundesrat*

*Mr Mars DI BARTOLOMEO*  
*President of the Chambre des Députés*

*Mr Milan BRGLEZ*  
*President of the Državni Zbor*

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*President of the Vouli ton Ellinon*

*Mr László KÖVÉR*  
*President of the Országgyűlés*

*Ms Tsetska TSACHEVA*  
*President of the Narodno sabranie*

*Ms Pia KJÆRSGAARD*  
*Speaker of the Folketing*

*Mr Anđlu FARRUGIA*  
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*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU*  
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*Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES*  
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*Speaker of the Riksdag*