

Brussels, - 4 AVR. 2011
C/2011/ 2118

Dear President,

Let me thank you for transmitting the resolution of the German Bundesrat on the European Commission's Communication on the Budget Review {COM(2010) 700 final}. The Commission has noted with pleasure the interest of the German Bundesrat in the above mentioned Communication on the options identified by the European Commission for the debate on how the EU budget can help to address future challenges, in particular the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy.

In this Communication and its annexes, the Commission's intention was not only to respond to the specific mandate from the December 2005 European Council and the 2006 Interinstitutional Agreement between the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament on budgetary discipline and sound financial management to undertake a full, wide-ranging review covering all aspects of EU spending. The Commission also wished to launch the necessary in-depth discussion on the future financing of the European Union budget with a view to preparing the proposal for the next multiannual financial framework.

Following the consultation period launched by the budget review, the Commission is now working on the proposals for the next MFF which will be presented before 1 July 2011, as foreseen in the Interinstitutional Agreement. To this end, the Commission will carefully take into consideration all received comments and opinions. It will also carry out the necessary impact assessments for the individual financial instrument proposals that will follow the general multiannual financial framework.

Please be assured that the specific concerns raised by the Bundesrat, in particular regarding the need to ensure that we use our resources to best effect, where the EU budget can make a difference and bring real added-value in a period of economic and budgetary difficulties, will be duly taken into account when drafting the final proposals.

Finally, let me thank you again for the opinion of the Bundesrat, which will help to enrich the debate on the future financing of the European Union budget.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Hannelore KRAFT
President of the German Bundesrat
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