



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.3.2019  
C(2019)2160 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Seimas for its Opinion on the Commission Work Programme for 2019 {COM(2018) 800 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes that the Seimas considers its own priorities to be well reflected in the Commission Work Programme 2019.*

*The Commission particularly welcomes the support of the Seimas in relation to the priority initiatives that are set out in annex I of the Commission Work Programme. The limited number of new initiatives set out in this annex, together with those presented alongside the State of the Union address, are essential to fully deliver on the ten priorities defined by President Juncker at the start of this Commission's mandate.*

*The Commission equally welcomes the specific reference of the Seimas to the importance of the Commission's intention to carry out an evaluation of the Directive 2006/54/EC on equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation, as indicated in annex II on REFIT initiatives. Although the European Union's legal framework (in particular Art. 157 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Directive 2006/54/EC) prescribes equal pay, its effective implementation and enforcement remain an important challenge. This evaluation will assess the extent to which the provisions of Directive 2006/54/EC, as strengthened by the 2014 Commission Recommendation on pay transparency, may need targeted amendments to further improve their effectiveness, efficiency, coherence with other European policies and bring European added value.*

*The Commission looks forward to the involvement of the Seimas on the above topics and to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Mr Gediminas KIRKILAS  
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*cc. Mr Viktoras PRANCKIETIS  
President of the Seimas  
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