



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Tweede Kamer for forwarding us, in the context of the political dialogue with national Parliaments, the Clingendael Institute's report on 'The European Commission in Balance – Ambition, Organisation, and Power'.

I understand that the Tweede Kamer has wished to receive an assessment of the way in which the Commission has performed the tasks and functions conferred on it by the EU Treaties. In accordance with article 249 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Commission reports every year on its activity in the General Report on the activities of the European Union (https://europa.eu/european-union/documents-publications/reports-booklets/general-report_en). While the Clingendael Institute's report (hereafter "the report") does not draw operational recommendations from its conclusions, and neither does the Tweede Kamer, the Commission takes good note of the report's detailed examination of the different elements of its multiple tasks, its internal and external roles and its relations with the other institutions and national Parliaments.

We agree with the view of the report that it is important to strike the right balance between European and national action in the various policy areas addressed in the report, and we find that the starting point for the upcoming discussions on the future of Europe should be the existing balance of competences between the EU and its Member States.

As President von der Leyen's set out in her political guidelines, her vision is a Union that strives for more in order to respond to the needs of the Union's citizens, our businesses, as well as of our planet. The Commission's ambitious work will be carried out in full respect of the interinstitutional balances and obligations set out in the Treaties. We remain attached to the subsidiarity, proportionality and better law-making principles, and want to increase transparency throughout the legislative process.

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Giving a new push to European democracy has been one of this Commission's priorities since taking office, and it will pursue this objective with a range of policy actions, including a European Democracy Action Plan. Furthermore, we intend to intensify the debate about the Future of Europe. President von der Leyen pledged to give Europeans a greater say on what the Union does and how it works for them. This will happen in various events as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe. This Conference will be a forum for discussing how to address the multiple challenges that our continent faces in a global context.

I am delighted with the strong wish expressed by national Parliaments to be involved in the Conference and I therefore warmly welcome the Tweede Kamer's interest in our institution and its policies.

The Commission is grateful for the efforts made to promote the further development of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*