



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
C/2009/5402 29 JUN 2009

Dear Mr Forsberg,

Thank you for the record of opinion 2008/09:SoU18 containing the response of the Committee on Health and Welfare to the Commission's Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health.

The European Commission thanks the Swedish Parliament for its thoughtful and constructive opinion. Please be assured that it will take the issues raised into account when appraising options following the public consultation on the Green Paper. The Commission notes, in addition, the reservation made by the Social Democratic Party, the Left Party and the Green Party.

In respect of the position of women in the labour market, the Commission would like to draw the attention of the Swedish Parliament to the 2009 Annual Report on equality between women and men that was adopted on 27 of February (COM(2009) 77 final). This report sets out the main progress recorded in the area of equality between women and men in 2008 and outlines the future challenges. The Commission would also like to point out that, in the renewed social agenda 2008, it has committed itself to put forward an initiative on health inequalities in 2009.

The Commission fully agrees that activities to address the various challenges described in the Green Paper must have due regard to the principle of subsidiarity. The public consultation on the Green Paper will provide an indication of areas where Member States and other stakeholders consider that the EU can support and add value to the activities in Member States. Any proposals which emerge from the responses will be assessed for their impact in the economic, social, and environmental fields and will be subject to further stakeholder consultation.

Yours sincerely

Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission

Mr Anders Forsberg
Secretary-General of the Riksdag