

Brussels, 16 FEB. 2011
C/2011/860

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its opinion of 26 November 2010 on the Annual Report 2009 on relations between the European Commission and national Parliaments {COM(2010)291} and for the very valuable clarifications enclosed therein, in particular with regard to your Parliament's internal procedures and approach to the examination of European Union's documents.

The Commission fully acknowledges that under the terms of the Swedish constitution as it stands, political dialogue between the Commission and Sweden is conducted via the Government, which is responsible to Parliament. However, let me clarify that according to our own definition the term "political dialogue" originates in the so-called "Barroso initiative", and applies to the relationship between the Commission and national Parliaments, which we see as separate from, though complementary to, the relations between the Commission and Member States governments.

Under this initiative, as you pointed out, sending new legislative proposals and consultation documents directly to national Parliaments has indeed encouraged a more in-depth debate on EU cooperation within Member States. But more precisely, it has and hopefully will continue to deepen the understanding and knowledge of the European Union among elected representatives of European citizens.

The Commission thus welcomes all opinions it receives from national Parliaments, and will continue to examine them carefully, convinced that this informal but constructive and effective communication will further strengthen the relationship between European institutions and citizens throughout Europe.

In that spirit, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Riksdag for participating in the political dialogue with the Commission, be it by expressing opinions on Green or White papers, or by making use of the subsidiarity control mechanism, as defined by the Treaty of Lisbon.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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President of the
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