



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The European Commission welcomes the interest of the Riksdag in the European Green Paper on the evaluation of the current VAT system and the possible ways forward to improve it {COM(2010)695}, and is grateful for the Riksdag's favourable opinion on this initiative.

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for having examined and discussed this issue and appreciates its support on the debate on the future of VAT and its recognition of the need to simplify the current system of VAT, make it more stable and more efficient, reduce costs of compliance and tax collection and prevent tax evasion. The Commission takes note that the Riksdag finds it essential to maintain the VAT's role as a stable source of revenue and to focus on combating VAT fraud. The comments expressed in its contribution to the Green Paper will provide a valuable input to the Commission in preparing the following legislative steps in this matter.

The Commission has started the analysis of the numerous contributions which have been received. The huge interest from stakeholders (more than 1 700 contributions) confirms the necessity of launching this exercise. This analysis will help the Commission to schedule and prepare the next steps of this exercise. At this stage, it is too early to draw conclusions from the outcome of the replies. However, it is the intention of the Commission to present a Communication setting out the priorities for future work on VAT before the end of this year. The Commission will keep national Parliaments informed about any further development in this field.

Yours faithfully,

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Vice-President*

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