



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 25.7.2013  
C(2013) 4868 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Annual Report 2011 on relations between the European Commission and national Parliaments {COM(2012) 375 final}.*

*In reply to the comments raised in the Riksdag's Opinion, the Commission would like to make the following comments and clarifications.*

*As regards the strengthened dialogue with national Parliaments in the context of the European Semester, the Commission would like to confirm that it is committed to such dialogue. It is of course entirely up to each national Parliament, including the Riksdag, to decide whether and in what form it wants to engage in this dialogue. Members of the Commission and senior Commission officials are ready to participate in a constructive dialogue, in particular following the adoption of the Annual Growth Survey and the Country Specific Recommendations.*

*With regard to the nature of the country-specific recommendations, the Commission would like to point out that they are based on the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union which considers Member States economic policies a matter of common concern. National Parliaments will always remain crucial in ensuring legitimacy of Member States' action in the European Council and the Council, as well as of the conduct of national fiscal and economic policies – even if more closely coordinated within the EU. To facilitate the task of national Parliaments, the Commission is, as said, committed to engaging in an intensified dialogue on the Annual Growth Survey and Country-Specific Recommendations with national parliaments. However, the Commission's preparation of the country-specific recommendations as such remains an independent exercise, in line with its right of initiative.*

*Concerning the Riksdag's comments related to the Europol Regulation as foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty, the Commission notes that, following the consultation phase, in which national Parliaments actively participated, the Commission adopted on 27 March 2013 a*

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*proposal for Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol)<sup>1</sup>. For Europol to be fully accountable to the EU citizen, both the European Parliament and the national Parliaments have a role to play in ensuring that the agency fulfils its mandate effectively and in compliance with the applicable framework. The proposal for Regulation features provisions that, for the first time, give national Parliaments a power of scrutiny, together with the European Parliament. This applies specifically in relation to policies, administration and finance. For this purpose, the European Parliament and national Parliaments will receive from Europol various types of information necessary for them to build an accurate picture to perform their supervisory functions.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Riksdag and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2013) 173