



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Swedish Riksdag for its Opinion on the Commission Work Programme 2013 {COM(2012) 629 final}, which is a helpful contribution to the inter-institutional dialogue on the EU's priorities, and for its support for the overall objectives set out in the Work Programme. The views of national Parliaments constitute valuable contributions to the debate on the political priorities of the European Union.

The Commission is grateful for the reactions of the Riksdag on the seven priority areas highlighted in the Work Programme and concludes that there is a high degree of convergence between the approach of the Commission and that of the Swedish Riksdag.

The Commission takes note of the particular emphasis put by the Riksdag on certain workstrands within these priorities and on the emphasis on specific and well-targeted proposals. It is also important to recall that in the framework of Europe 2020, the European semester process provides an overall framework to identify and promote the most effective steps to address the current economic challenges.

The Riksdag's observations have been circulated to all the responsible Commission services to look at in detail. Many of the proposals set out in the Work Programme are now the subject of detailed reflection and preparation, including through public consultations and impact assessments. The specific indications made by the Swedish Riksdag will be of particular value in this process. These include:

- The specific comments made on banking union, which will be a high priority for the Commission this year. It also includes the specific comments on shadow banking, e-invoicing, payment services and occupational pensions. The Commission takes particular note of the comments concerning subsidiarity in respect of deposit guarantee schemes and investor-compensation schemes, and the prudential supervision of credit institutions.*
- The emphasis placed on the completion of the Stockholm Programme, which underlies much of the Commission's continuing work in this area. The Commission can confirm that the options for a European Public Prosecutor's Office to defend the financial interests of the Union are being carefully assessed through an impact assessment. The Commission takes particular note of the comments on the need for careful consideration in the choice of legal bases.*

*Mr Per WESTERBERG
President of the Riksdag
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- *The emphasis laid on the active promotion of the Union's core values and fundamental human rights, as well as on openness in its relations with partners close to the EU and worldwide. The Commission notes in particular the Riksdag's emphasis on coherence in external policies and the need to maintain the Millennium Development Goals at the core of development policy. It also recognises the emphasis placed on a new phase in the EU's climate and energy policies, a major workstream for the Commission this year.*

The Commission hopes that these comments contribute to the ongoing dialogue with the Riksdag and looks forward to deepening the exchanges on specific proposals.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*