



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 5.05.2015
C(2015) 1460 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the White Paper "Towards more effective EU merger control" {COM(2014) 449 final}.

The Commission has received comments on the White Paper from a large number of stakeholders, which will soon be published on the Commission website at the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2014_merger_control/index_en.html.

The Commission very much appreciates and shares the Riksdag's view that EU merger control is a significant part of the work to bring about a properly functioning internal market. It welcomes the Riksdag's support for measures to improve and simplify EU merger control and make it more effective so that healthy competition is maintained and consumers do not suffer because of economic concentration in the market.

The Commission also takes note of the Riksdag's emphasis on the importance of future legislation in the area of EU merger control being drafted in such a way that it does not entail increased administrative costs for businesses.

The Commission would like to emphasise that this concern has to a great extent guided the design of the proposals for improving the EU Merger Regulation set out in the White Paper. As regards the possible inclusion of non-controlling minority shareholdings, the White Paper proposes a targeted transparency system aiming only at potentially problematic acquisitions and not affecting the large majority of benign minority stake investments (such as private equity investments or investments in start-up companies).

The other proposals in the White Paper, notably on the procedures for referring cases between Member States and the Commission, are very much aimed at streamlining and simplifying existing procedures.

*Mr Urban AHLIN
Speaker of the Riksdag
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The Commission hopes that these comments addresses the issue raised by the Riksdag and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Riksdag in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Margrethe Vestager
Member of the Commission*