



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 22.04.2015  
C(2015) 2634 final*

*Mr Urban AHLIN  
Speaker of the Riksdag  
SE – 100 12 STOCKHOLM*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion concerning the Commission Work Programme for 2015 {COM (2014) 910 final}, and for its support to key measures on growth and jobs, the internal market, energy and climate and a stronger global presence. The views of national Parliaments constitute valuable contributions to the debate on the political priorities of the European Union and the Commission encourages national Parliaments to see the Commission Work Programme as a strategic tool which allows for an early exchange on priorities.*

*The Commission shares the Riksdag's views on the importance of sustainable development. In that regard the Commission on 25 February 2015 presented the Energy Union package, including the Communication on the "Road to Paris", with the aim of sending a strong signal on climate change well ahead of the Paris conference. The Communication on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals was adopted on 5 February 2015. In addition, later this spring, the Commission intends to adopt a European Agenda on Migration, and a well-functioning Common European Asylum System can be expected to be an important item.*

*While it does not contain a specific deliverable on research and innovation, the Commission Work Programme for 2015 puts forth research, science and innovation policy as key to achieving the Commission's political priorities for a connected Digital Single Market as well as for a resilient Energy Union and a forward-looking Climate Change Policy.*

*Enlargement negotiations continue and the Commission's neighbourhood policy is high on the agenda. A consultation on the future of relations with the neighbourhood countries was launched on 4 March 2015 with a view to reviewing the European Neighbourhood Policy later this year.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, the Commission is actively pursuing a balanced Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement, as well as reflecting on how to take forward the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, following the ruling of the European Court of Justice.*

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/consultation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/consultation/index_en.htm)

*Finally, the Commission is conscious of the challenges for equality between women and men (the 2014 Report was published on 5 March 2015), and supports action at all levels to address these challenges, including through the country-specific recommendations and co-funding opportunities from the European Structural and Investment Funds within the EU and through other funds outside the EU. The Commission is following the work in the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal on maternity leave. The Commission Work Programme for 2015 has set a six month deadline, after which the Commission will withdraw it and replace by a new initiative if no agreement has been reached by the legislator. It is also monitoring the proposal on women on boards as well as the follow-up to its Recommendation on equal pay.*

*The Commission Work Programme for 2015 reflects a new start and a strong commitment to openness and transparency, and to working better together with the other EU institutions and with national Parliaments. On taking office the Commission revamped its working methods and put in place new rules on transparency, while a Better Regulation Package is planned for April 2015.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*