



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the Commission Work Programme for 2016 {COM(2015) 610 final} and for its support for a focused work programme, better regulation, transparency and dialogue with national Parliaments. The Commission takes note of the substantive input provided by the Riksdag and has circulated the Opinion to the relevant services and cabinets.

The Commission has already presented a number of initiatives in the work programme, such as the Circular Economy Package, the Border Management Package, and the European Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme with a view to completing the Banking Union. The Commission has also adopted the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive, with the other components of the Labour Mobility Package to follow later in the year.

Energy, environment and climate are key priorities. Having invested considerable efforts towards the Paris Agreement on climate change, which will steer the world towards a global clean energy transition, we are now working on the next steps. The Commission presented on 2 March 2016 a Communication on implications of the agreement, is following up on the action plan for a Circular Economy adopted last December, and preparing the next steps for a sustainable European future in the light of the review of the Europe 2020 strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Commission welcomes the Riksdag's support for the efforts to boost the economy and pursue structural reforms, while fully respecting Member States' competences in relation to budget, taxation and social policies. In the framework of our agenda for fair and efficient corporate taxation, we are also preparing to re-launch work in the area of a common corporate tax base under a staged approach. Consumer protection is an essential element of the Digital Single Market Strategy as well as all our broader Single Market Strategy.

*Mr Urban AHLIN
Speaker of the Riksdag
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The Commission is very pleased that a number of proposals identified for prioritisation in the legislative process, such as the data protection reform and the Network and Information Security Directive are now agreed.

The Commission takes note of the Riksdag's subsidiarity concerns relating to a number of other pending proposals, including the Financial Transaction Tax. The Commission trusts that it has adequately addressed these concerns, and that where a proposal is further pursued by means of enhanced cooperation, the interests of non-participating Member States are fully respected.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*