



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.2.2016

C(2016) 958 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 on the Joint Consultation Paper 'Towards a new partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020' {JOIN(2015) 33 final}.

The purpose of the consultation is to initiate a broad public discussion on the key issues pertaining to the partnership and relations after 2020, between the European Union and the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States.

The Commission and the High Representative value the early engagement of key stakeholders at this stage of the policy-making process and will take the Opinion and other contributions received into account in the next steps in this process.

The Commission and the European External Action Service will present a summary of the results of the public consultation in the early months of 2016. This overview will be made available on the Commission's dedicated website.¹

As noted in the Opinion, two Staff Working Documents will be issued. Firstly, an evaluation assessing the extent to which the Cotonou Partnership Agreement has achieved its goals during its first 15 years in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and complementarity with other EU policies. This is expected to be followed by an Impact Assessment on possible future options for relations and their likely impact. The Commission will then be in a position to adopt a Recommendation to the Council on the new policy framework to govern relations with the ACP countries and regions.

The Commission attaches great importance to the involvement of the national Parliaments in this process and looks forward to continuing the dialogue in the future on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Neven Mimica
Member of the Commission*

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/public-consultation-eu-acp-new-partnership_en