



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 9.7.2019
C(2019) 5091 final

Dear Speaker,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the Communication to the European Parliament and the European Council – A European that protects: an initiative to extend the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to cross-border terrorist crimes {COM(2018) 641 final}.

The Commission concurs with the views expressed by the Riksdag that terrorism is one of the main challenges our societies face and that the European Union must take decisive action to address the problem. The Communication forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures aimed at completing the Security Union and thus enhancing the security of the European citizens.

The Commission takes note of the concerns expressed by the Riksdag, namely that it is doubtful whether an extension of the powers of the European Public Prosecutor's Office is the most effective solution to tackle the threat of terrorism and that there is a need for a deeper analysis of what an extension would mean. As outlined in the Communication, there is need to look into a number of issues that would be impacted by an extension.

The Commission would like to recall that an extension of the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to cross-border terrorist crimes, based on Article 86(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, would follow a two-step approach. It first requires a decision by the European Council amending Article 86 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and, secondly, a legislative proposal to amend Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 so as to extend the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

Such an extension of the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office would also aim to reinforce the existing cooperation within the European Union in this field, including through Eurojust and Europol.

Mr Andreas Norlén
Speaker of the Riksdag
SE – 100 12 STOCKHOLM

The Commission would also like to underline that a debate on the extension of the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office does not, as such, impact the current set up process of the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the Commission's efforts to make the Office operational by the end of 2020.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Riksdag and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*