



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 24.01.2019
C(2019) 637 final*

Dear Speaker,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the Commission Work Programme for 2019 {COM(2018) 800 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Riksdag for focusing in this last Work Programme under the current mandate on only a few new initiatives to fully deliver on the ten priorities of the Juncker Commission, on finding agreement with co-legislators on the proposals on the table and on effective implementation.

The Commission also welcomes the support for reflecting on the future of the European Union and appreciates the call of the Riksdag to safeguard broad democratic support in this process. The Commission works together with the European Parliament and the Council as well as with national Parliaments to discuss and develop the Roadmap to Sibiu and to work on concrete initiatives to give perspectives for the future of the Union. Throughout this process, the Commission will continue to build on the democratic and inclusive debate launched by the White Paper on the Future of Europe, and the subsequent Reflection Papers that set out options in key areas. Every citizen has been given the opportunity to contribute to the Future of Europe debate and to provide direct feedback on how we should collectively move forward.

As rightly pointed out in the Riksdag's Opinion, the European Union should serve its citizens in a way that strengthens confidence in European cooperation and by showing that the European Union can make a difference on specific themes that are important for its citizens.

The Commission shares the position expressed by the Riksdag as regards Brexit and the importance of clarity and predictability. The Commission made significant efforts to

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

negotiate an agreement on an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and a framework for the future relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union and welcomes the support of Sweden on the agreement in the European Council. However, as there is still no certainty that there will be a ratified withdrawal agreement in place on the withdrawal date of 30 March 2019, preparations have been intensified to ensure that the European Union institutions, Member States and private parties are prepared for the United Kingdom's withdrawal in case of a 'no deal'. In December 2018, the Commission started to implement its Contingency Action Plan¹ focusing on a number of key areas where disruptions are likely to be the most significant. The Commission looks forward to the Riksdag's involvement on the above topics and to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

¹ Commission Communication of 19 December 2018 {COM(2018) 890 final}