



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2021) 569 final

Dear Speaker,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on its Work Programme for 2021 - “A Union of vitality in a world of fragility” {COM(2020) 690 final}.

The Commission welcomes the analysis of the Riksdag and takes careful note of the points set out in the Opinion. It particularly appreciates the support of the Riksdag to the initiatives envisaged in the area of bilateral and regional relations.

The Commission also welcomes the support of the Riksdag for the work on the rule of law and specifically the new annual rule of law report. The rule of law is fundamental to our democracies and a precondition for the internal market, legal cooperation and the general functioning of the Union. The annual report aims at raising awareness of relevant developments and furthering the debate at both national and EU level. Based on the annual rule of law report, the Commission invites national authorities and parliaments to engage in a dialogue to strengthen the rule of law across the EU.

Regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Commission appreciates the support of the Riksdag and shares the view that citizens’ support and participation should be encouraged and be as broad as possible. In that context, national Parliaments, as well as locally and regionally elected representatives, will play an important role in the process and contributing to make the Conference a success.

The Commission shares the position expressed by the Riksdag on the importance of better regulation and the REFIT programme, which remain pivotal in the recovery process, and welcomes the Riksdag’s support to its better regulation policy. It considers that the EU must act only in the areas where there is clear European added value and that, in areas where the Union shares competence with the Member States, all measures must fully respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. It is committed to respecting these principles in all its initiatives and to explaining their application in the explanatory memoranda accompanying the proposals. Ex-ante impact assessments accompanying initiatives with significant social, economic and environmental impacts

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for citizens and businesses provide qualitative and quantitative information to support the EU level action as well as on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Ex post evaluations and fitness checks assess how the initiative has proven its EU added value.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*