



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the Joint Communication from the Commission and the High Representative on the 'Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all' of 18 March 2020.

The European Commission is pleased that the Riksdag fully supports the policy orientation for the future Eastern Partnership as set out in the Communication. This echoes the position of the EU Member States, as expressed in the Council Conclusions of 11 May 2020.

The Joint Communication represents the result of a structured consultation announced on the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership in May 2019, and aimed at renewing and upgrading the policy for the years to come. The Joint Communication captures the reflections and positions of a significant number of stakeholders, including EU Member States and partner countries. The European Commission is pleased to have the support of the Riksdag for the five proposed policy areas for cooperation, as well as for the rule of law and good governance as a cornerstone of the policy.

Democracy and human rights will remain at the heart of the Eastern Partnership policy and will be central to the incentive-based approach, or 'more for more', which will continue to support and reward the partner countries' will and drive for reforms.

The European Commission is pleased to inform the Riksdag that in the months to come, and in the run-up to the next Eastern Partnership Summit, a renewed series of Eastern Partnership deliverables will be developed jointly with Member States and partner countries. They will be instrumental in covering the new priorities set out in the Joint Communication, for instance in sectors like the environment, digitalisation, and health, which will be crucial in light of the response to and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, progress is still possible on numerous specific deliverables of the '20 Deliverables for 2020', which will remain important also in the future.

*Andreas NORLÉN
Speaker of the Riksdag
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The Eastern Partnership remains high on the agenda of the European Union's foreign policy, as becomes evident from the Joint Communication. The European Commission would like to thank Sweden for its support and contribution to the Eastern Partnership, and counts on Sweden's and the Riksdag's continued support to this successful policy in the coming years.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Riksdag in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative/Vice-President*