



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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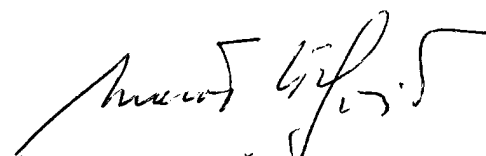
Dear Chairman,

The European Commission would like to thank the European Scrutiny Committee of the House of Commons for its opinion of 25 May 2011 concerning the opting into international agreements and enhanced Parliamentary scrutiny of opt-in decisions.

The Commission can subscribe to the view expressed by the Committee that, only a legal basis from the Title V TFEU allows for the use of Protocol 21. For the sake of completeness, however, the Commission would draw to the Committee's attention the specific provision contained in Article 6a of Protocol 21 concerning the use of the legal base of Article 16 TFEU.

Please allow me to thank the members of the Committee for their support to maintain the unity of the EU law.

Yours faithfully,



Maroš Šefčovič
Vice President

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Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee
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