



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Lord Boswell,

The European Commission would like to thank the House of Lords for its report entitled "The EU referendum and EU reform", which I have read with interest.

The report contains a valuable overview of the process that led to the Decision of the Heads of State or Government, meeting within the European Council, concerning a New Settlement for the UK within the European Union on 19 February 2016. Subject to the reservation that the New Settlement can only enter into force after a notification by the UK Government that the UK has decided to remain a member of the EU, I take note of the conclusions and recommendations raised in the report to which the House of Lords invites the Commission to respond.

Whilst the Commission is convinced that the EU is stronger with the United Kingdom as a member, it is not taking part in the referendum campaign and therefore prefers to abstain from detailed comments.

Yours sincerely,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*The Lord Boswell of Aynho
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