

Jean-Claude JUNCKER
President of the European Commission

Frans TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 12 NOV. 2014

Dear President Schulz, Ben Huh,
Dear President Renzi, Carlo Cottarelli,

We are entering a new legislative cycle following the European Parliament elections this year. We should seize this opportunity for a new approach, to restore citizens' confidence by proving that the European Union can deliver in their interests on the key challenges ahead for our economies and societies.

This will require a clear sense of priorities shared across all institutions so we focus our work on what can be best achieved for Europe's citizens and businesses by action at EU level. The Political Guidelines for the new Commission have set out an Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change for a new start for Europe. The agenda focuses on ten policy areas where we will work to deliver results during our mandate, taking into account the strategic agenda agreed by the European Council in June.

Closer cooperation between our Institutions can send a powerful message. The Lisbon Treaty introduced provisions to foster a common agreement between institutions on annual and multiannual programming, and it is time to give them real meaning. This will enhance our collective capacity to deliver results for Europeans – responding to the expectations of citizens and business, focusing on the big issues where EU action can make a real difference, whilst exercising restraint, in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, in areas which can be effectively addressed at national, regional or local level.

Close cooperation and a commitment to prioritising the things that really matter is all the more important as economic recovery has lost momentum and unemployment remains unacceptably high, while events in our neighbourhood call for a strong response.

Mr Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

Mr Matteo Renzi
President of the Council

By email

In line with Article 17(1) TEU, the Commission initiates the European Union's annual and multiannual programming. With this letter we would like to first share with you our initial thinking for priorities for 2015, as the basis for an exchange of views in full respect of the respective roles and prerogatives of all institutions and the structured dialogue with the European Parliament set out in the Framework Agreement. We also present some suggestions for turning our cooperation into a future inter-institutional agreement covering multiannual programming for the years that follow.

Priority initiatives for 2015 and beyond

Against this background, we are currently preparing the Commission Work Programme for 2015, which we plan to adopt by the end of the year. This will include new initiatives for 2015 to give effect to the ten priorities. We will also take this opportunity to review and if necessary withdraw some pending proposals. The work programme will have a strong implementation and simplification dimension, building on the REFIT Communication of June 2014.

At this stage, and to ensure our exchange of views with you is well-prepared, we would like to share the following non-exhaustive list of the kind of proposals and further work which the Commission is considering for inclusion in the Commission Work Programme for 2015:

1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment

- *Jobs, Growth and Investment Package (before end of 2014) and follow-up*
- *A review of the Europe 2020 Strategy*
- *A strengthened Better Regulation agenda*

2. A Connected Digital Single Market

- *A Digital Single Market package, including more ambitious reform of the telecoms market*
- *A proposal on copyright reform*

3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy

- *Follow-up to the 2030 energy and climate package agreed in the October European Council*
- *Preparation of the EU role in the UN Conference on climate change negotiations*
- *Actions to strengthen energy security*

4. A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base

- *Implementing new banking supervisory and resolution rules, and completing the financial services regulatory framework*
- *Proposal on crisis management and resolution of financial institutions other than banks*
- *Work on a future Capital Markets Union*

- *A targeted review of the Posting of Workers Directive; promotion of labour mobility*
- *Work on a definitive VAT regime*
- *Measures to combat tax fraud and tax evasion*

5. A Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union

- *Proposals to deepen Economic and Monetary Union and strengthen economic governance, following the review of the 'six-pack' and the 'two-pack' later this year*

6. A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.

7. An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust

- *Pursuing EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights*
- *Concluding a comprehensive EU-US data protection agreement and review of safe harbour agreement*

8. Towards a New Policy on Migration

- *Implementing the common asylum policy*
- *A new policy on legal migration, starting with the review of the Blue Card Directive*
- *A Communication on internal security strategy*
- *Operational measures to fight terrorism and counter radicalisation*

9. A Stronger Global Actor

- *European Neighbourhood Policy: stocktaking and way forward*
- *Millennium Development Goals/post-2015 framework*

10. A Union of Democratic Change

- *Review of legislation for the authorisation of Genetically Modified Organisms*
- *Inter-institutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency register*
- *Inter-institutional Agreement on better law-making*

The Commission will engage actively with the European Parliament, in accordance with the structured dialogue under the Framework Agreement, and with the Council through the General Affairs Council in the coming weeks to take forward an exchange of views on these issues.

Following the adoption of its Work Programme for 2015, the Commission is ready to work with the European Parliament and the outgoing Italian and incoming Latvian Presidency to identify a list of priority proposals on which the institutions could commit to make swift progress (fast tracking), both as regards content and process.

Towards an inter-institutional agreement on programming

The Commission has already confirmed its readiness to present a proposal for a new Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law Making, which would include provisions on programming, with the aim of concluding negotiations by the end of 2015.

A future inter-institutional agreement on programming would foster shared ownership of priorities so as to take the Union's agenda forward in the most effective way, while respecting each institution's role and prerogatives under the Treaties. Our three institutions could agree on a multiannual programme setting out strategic objectives and major deliverables at the start of the legislative term. This could be reviewed mid-term.

The Commission Work Programme would be the operational translation of these strategic goals. The Commission considers that the structured dialogue with the European Parliament foreseen in the Framework Agreement has proved its value and the Commission reiterates its full engagement in this regard.

We would be open to developing a similar exchange of views with the Council:


- the letter from the President of the European Commission, accompanying the State of the Union address and setting out the main elements guiding Commission Work Programme preparations, could be addressed to both the European Parliament and the Council;*
- based on the State of the Union address and the accompanying letter, an exchange of views could also take place in the General Affairs Council.*

The work programme to be subsequently adopted by the Commission would thus reflect the priorities shared by three institutions, including a commitment by the Commission to provide more information and regular updates on its planning and a commitment from European Parliament and Council on the legislative process, notably the fast-tracking of key proposals but also closer cooperation on implementation aspects.

We could agree to systematically exchange views, twice a year, both in the Conference of Committee Chairs, which would further reinforce the structured dialogue with the European Parliament, and in the General Affairs Council, to ensure an effective monitoring of progress made on these priority files and review the process if necessary.

We need to work on a pragmatic basis for this year and at the same time launch reflections on the future institutional framework. We look forward to your reactions to these ideas and to discussing them further with you.


Jean-Claude JUNCKER


Frans TIMMERMANS