



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Office of the First Vice-President Mr Frans Timmermans

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 03. 05. 2017
Ares (2017) 802454

Dear Mr Cornut,

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 February 2017 addressed to President Juncker and First Vice-President Timmermans.

Since the beginning of its mandate the Juncker Commission has taken a number of measures to ensure that a well-informed political debate takes place before submitting and adopting proposals for delegated or implementing acts on sensitive subjects.

In his State of the Union address to the European Parliament in September 2016 President Juncker made clear that 'it is not right that when EU countries cannot decide among themselves whether or not to ban the use of glyphosate in herbicides, the Commission is forced by Parliament and Council to take a decision. So we will change those rules – because that is not democracy'¹.

Therefore, to ensure that the political responsibility is supported by the co-legislator, the Commission proposed to amend the "Comitology Regulation" on 14 February 2017 by a package of four targeted amendments².

The envisaged changes to the "Comitology Regulation" are limited to the appeal committee procedure. They have the objective of enhancing transparency and accountability. By no means are they intended at making the decision-making of Commission implementing powers less science-based than before. It remains of utmost importance that the decision-making process for the authorisation of products and substances is driven by sound science and the appropriate application of the legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Ben SMULDERS

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¹ State of the Union Address 2016: https://ec.europa.eu/priorities/state-union-2016_en

² See the Press Release of the same day http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-264_en.htm