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HIGH REPRESENTATIVE  
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Brussels, 04 JUL. 2016  
A(2016)2516627-3183727

H.E. Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Latvia

Dear Edgars,

Thank you for your letter of 18 May on Latvia's OECD membership and your warm words of acknowledgement.

I did indeed my best to accelerate the recognition of the vast reforms undertaken by your country and of its due legitimacy to be part of the "house of best practices", which indeed the OECD is. The merit is all yours, but I am very happy that you recognise the facilitating role in this whole process played by the European institutions. Membership in the European Union was essential to obtain membership in the OECD, both from a substantial and procedural point of view. I agree with you that the marathon you completed began two decades ago, at a time when accession to membership in the EU and in the OECD converged in imposing deep and fundamental reforms to improve economic performance in the longer term and highest standards.

Membership in the OECD is a concrete credit to all of these accomplishments, but the real recognition is that these long term efforts will pay dividends for a long period of time. Today, your country may justly enjoy the pleasure of public acknowledgment, but you certainly feel an even greater satisfaction with having fixed what needed to be fixed in order to sustain "better policies for better lives" for your citizens.

As you already indicate in your letter, following this achievement, we have further combats to fight together, e.g. in order to address common global challenges such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and inequalities. I am confident that Latvia's presence in the OECD will help addressing these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini