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Dear Chairman Moraes, *Dear Claude,*

Thank you for your letter of 10 February and thank you again for the opportunity to inform Members of the LIBE Committee on 1 February on the state of play of discussions with the US on a Safe Harbour successor arrangements. The talks were still ongoing at that moment, albeit very advanced, and the input of the Members of the Committee was very helpful.

On the following day, 2 February, I received the backing of the College to finalise the negotiations. After a final round of talks with US Commerce Secretary Pritzker, I duly announced the political understanding reached on the new EU-US Privacy Shield. Since then, the documents are being finalised in detail on both sides and the Commission is preparing to formally table the EU-US Privacy Shield arrangement later this month. At that moment, all documents will become available to the European Parliament and Council. The Commission will of course be ready to debrief the LIBE Committee in detail.

In the meantime, Deputy Director General Fonseca Morillo will represent the Commission in this afternoon's discussions on the EU-US Umbrella Agreement. Following the adoption of the Judicial Redress Act by the US Congress, this issue is of particular importance. I therefore hope for a constructive debate on the Umbrella Agreement, which will significantly strengthen the protection of personal data for anyone - regardless of nationality - whose data is transferred from the EU to the US in the framework of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Yours sincerely,



Věra JOUROVÁ

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