Dear Mrs. Podhorna,

Following our phone conversation, please find attached the letter sent by the President of the Republic of Panama to HR/VP Mrs. Mogherini, inviting her to participate at the inauguration ceremony of the enlarged Panama Canal, which will take place in **Panama City on 26 June 2016.** The Panamanian authorities intend to give high visibility to the event, invitations have been sent to numerous Governments at the level of Head of State/ Government. Unfortunately the HR/VP will not be able to participate due to previous agenda commitments. Therefore, we were wondering **whether VP Šefčovič would be available to represent the EU** at this important occasion.

As you may know, this enlargement of the Panama Canal is a major achievement not only for the country itself but for international trade in general. Moreover, **the EU had a significant role in its building** since the enlargement works were contracted to a consortium of three European companies (from Spain, Italy and Belgium) and the European Investment Bank contributed, among others, to the financing of the enlargement through a € 500 million loan.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you in advance and best regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Desk Officer for Costa Rica, Panama and Caribbean Regional Affairs
Divison for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (Americas 2)
European External Action Service
Phone: + 32 2 [redacted]
Email: [redacted]