



FRANS TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President

Brussels, 25/03/2019

Dear Honourable Members,

Thank you for your further letter of 22 March in response my reply of the previous day.

I fully recognise and understand that your strong preference would have been to conclude this negotiation before the end of the term of the present Parliament. I would like to pay tribute to both of you for your personal commitment to driving enhanced transparency within the Parliament over the past three years, in what I realise has not always been an easy context.

But I am afraid I have to insist that the postponement of the technical meeting was by common agreement of the technical teams of all three institutions who considered that further time was needed to properly prepare for the discussions on the cluster of articles dealing with the management and resourcing of the Register. These are sensitive and important issues.

As the common language of the coordinated press releases issued by the three institutions after our political meeting last month noted:

"The negotiators agreed to continue discussions on the technical aspects of the package of instruments regarding the Transparency Register, in order to achieve a political agreement between the three institutions as soon as possible."¹

For the Commission, a meaningful political meeting can only take place once the technical level has completed its work to prepare a compromise text on all but Articles 3 and 5 (which are reserved for political level and where I do accept there is a link to the legal structure issue).

*Ms Sylvie Guillaume
Vice-President of the European Parliament
and
Ms Danuta Hübner
Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs*

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/fr/press-room/20190213IPR26332/third-round-of-talks-on-the-proposal-for-a-mandatory-transparency-register>

I can assure you that the Commission services will convene the next technical meeting as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Frans Timmermans