



FRANS TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President

Brussels, 21/3/2019

Dear Honourable Members,

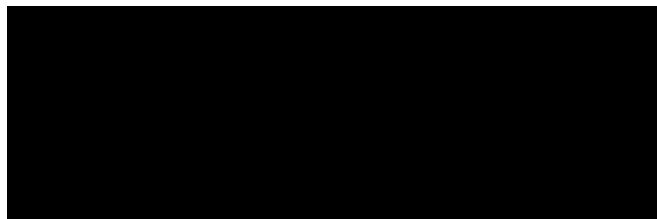
Thank you for your letter of 14 March.

In line with the mandate we gave to our respective services at the third political meeting last month, the Commission services have organised three technical meetings and our Legal Services have also met.

The technical meetings have made good progress on several sections of the text, but have not yet addressed the cluster of articles around the management and resourcing of the Register (for example the management board, the secretariat's composition and resources etc). This cluster was due to be discussed at a further technical meeting earlier this week, but by common agreement of the technical teams of all three institutions this was postponed to allow time to properly prepare for the discussions on these the most delicate of the issues we delegated to the technical level. Furthermore, the meeting of the three Legal Services last week showed that there is an ongoing divergence of views on the legal structure.

Since the technical level has not yet completed its work to prepare a compromise text on all but Articles 3 and 5 (which are reserved for the political level and where the position of the Commission remains as I expressed it at our last political meeting), I fear it is unrealistic to suggest that a meeting next week could result in an overall political agreement. The Commission services will convene the next technical meeting in early April and will continue to engage constructively with your services and those of the Council to complete the work we have mandated to them.

Yours sincerely,



Frans Timmermans

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