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COVER NOTE

from:	Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission
date of receipt:	28 April 2015
to:	Danuta HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament
Subject:	European Parliament's right of inquiry

Delegations will find attached a letter from Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission, on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament on the detailed provisions governing the exercise of the European Parliament's right of inquiry replacing the Decision of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 19 April 1995 (95/167/EC, Euratom, ECSC).



FRANS TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President

Brussels, 28.04.2015
Ares(2015) 867781

Dear Ms Hübner,

Dear Danuta,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2015, inviting the Council and the Commission to resume negotiations with the newly elected Parliament on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament on the detailed provisions governing the exercise of the European Parliament's right of inquiry. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to you.

You will be aware that this proposal, as adopted by the Plenary on 23 May 2012, has raised a number of legal and institutional concerns on our side. These have been brought to the Parliament's attention on earlier occasions, in particular in the joint letter of 4 April 2014 of the Secretary-General of the Council and the Secretary-General of the Commission to Mr Klaus Welle. We understand however the Parliament's desire to make progress on this file, and we are committed to cooperate with you to explore the options for a constructive way forward.

I am therefore pleased to report that on 22 April 2015, the Latvian Presidency of the Council called an exploratory meeting on the matter with the EP's rapporteur, Mr Jáuregui Atondo, and a representative of the Commission. At that meeting, it was agreed that the three institutions would pursue discussions together, on an informal basis, during the coming months, starting with working meetings on the legal and institutional aspects of the proposal.

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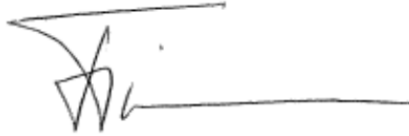
Ms Danuta HÜBNER
Chair
Committee on Constitutional Affairs
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 BRUSSELS

E-mail: afco-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

We thus look forward to further discussions on this matter with Mr Jáuregui Atondo and the Presidency of the Council in the near future and to making a concerted effort to address all the issues of concern that have been raised in relation to this file.

Allow me to assure you that the Commission will work constructively to find solutions to the outstanding issues that have prevented this proposal from being adopted so far.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' and 'T' followed by a horizontal line.

Frans TIMMERMANS