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**COVER NOTE**

from:	Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Parliamentary Secretary of the Latvian Foreign Ministry, President in Office of the Council
date of receipt:	7 May 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 Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Parliamentary Secretary of the Latvian Foreign Ministry, President in Office of the Council, 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).



Latvian Presidency  
of the Council of the  
European Union

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Rīga, 4 May, 2015

Dear Ms Hübner,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 27 February 2015, inviting the Council to resume discussions with the EP 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.

You will be aware of the fact that this draft Regulation has raised a number of legal and institutional concerns on our side. These have been brought to the Parliament's attention at earlier occasions. We understand however the Parliament's desire to make progress on this file, and are committed to cooperating with you to explore the options for a constructive way forward on this file.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the fact that, pursuant to Article 226 TFEU, regulations 'governing the exercise of the right of inquiry' are subject to a 'special legislative procedure, after obtaining the consent of the Council and the Commission'. Therefore, potential draft regulation(s) prepared by the European Parliament will not be subject to trilogues.

Despite this formal remark, I am pleased to inform you that on 22 April 2015 the Presidency had an exploratory meeting on the matter with the Parliament's rapporteur, Mr JAUREGUI ATONDO. At that meeting, it was agreed with Mr JAUREGUI ATONDO to have another informal meeting with the aim of identifying the concerns of the Council and the Commission. Depending on the outcome, this *modus operandi* could be used as a setting for further discussions.

We thus look forward to further discussing this matter with Mr JAUREGUI ATONDO 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.

Yours sincerely,

Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica  
Parliamentary State Secretary for EU Affairs

**Ms Danuta Maria HÜBNER**  
**Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs**  
**European Parliament**