



FRANS TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President

*Mr Luciano BUSUTTIL,
Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs
Committee of the Kamra tad-Deputati
The Palace
MT – VALLETTA VLT 1115*

Dear Chairman,

On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to send you the Commission's response to the Contribution of the LVI COSAC that took place in Bratislava from 13-15 November 2016.

As I noted during my address to the Plenary on "Strengthening the role of national Parliaments in the EU", we live in a fast changing world in which the EU must be able to show that it can adapt to change and respond to citizens' expectations. In my view, national Parliaments have a central role to play in this regard, not only by ensuring that the principle of subsidiarity is respected in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality but also by engaging at other stages in the policy cycle, for example, by responding to Commission consultations or making suggestions in the framework of the enhanced political dialogue.

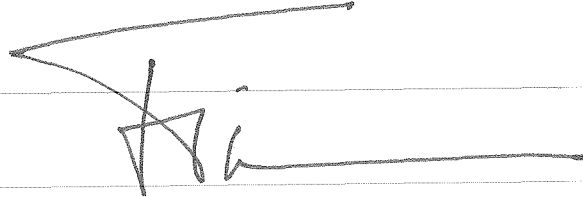
The Commission Work Programme for 2017, which is one of the topics on the agenda of the next meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC, is a clear demonstration that the Commission remains committed to delivering concrete results where action at EU level is necessary to address the challenges that Member States alone cannot. In this regard, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council signed a Joint Declaration on 13 December 2016 in which they have agreed on a number of proposals to which priority treatment will be given in the legislative process.

I am looking forward to an exchange of views with national Parliaments on the Commission Work Programme and other matters in Valletta next month.

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As we approach the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome and the publication of the Commission White Paper setting out a long term vision for the Union, the value and importance of our ongoing and constructive dialogue is more evident than ever.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FT', written over a horizontal line.

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

cc: Mr Luboš BLAHA, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Národná rada

Annexes : 2 (Joint Declaration and the Commission Reply to the LVI COSAC contribution)