

H.E. Donald Tusk
President of the European Council

June 20, 2016

On the implementation of the reforms after the referendum in the United Kingdom

Dear Mr President,

On 18–19 February 2016, Heads of State and Government agreed on a decision concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. This agreement symbolizes the will of the European Union to stay united and to bring the EU closer to its citizens.

The set of arrangements from 18–19 February provide *inter alia* that where reasoned opinions on the non-compliance of a proposal for a EU legislative act with the principle of subsidiarity, sent within 12 weeks from the transmission of the draft, represent more than 55 % of the votes allocated to the national parliaments, the Council Presidency will include the item on the agenda of the Council for a comprehensive discussion on these opinions, and on the conclusions to be drawn therefrom.

Following such discussions, the representatives of the Member States, acting in their capacity of the Council, will interrupt the consideration of the draft legislative act in question unless the draft is amended to accommodate the concerns expressed in the reasoned opinions. The European Council agreed on a set of arrangements that are compatible with the Treaties, and on continuing to develop the concept of the so-called 'red card'.

Our governments have supported this idea by consensus. Strengthening the role of national parliaments has become part of the reform package in the event of a "remain vote" in the UK referendum. The core of the duties of national parliaments in the EU does not lie only in transposing the EU legislation into national legislation, but also in debating openly on the EU proposals made by the European Commission, with the ability to stop the EU level intervention when this is unreasonable and unacceptable for the majority of our citizens. This is the duty that our citizens expect us to carry out in the parliaments via the EU scrutiny and subsidiarity check mechanisms.

There is no substitute for the democratic legitimacy provided by national legislatures. Should the United Kingdom decide to remain a member of the EU, we ask for a quick implementation of the arrangements agreed upon at the European Union Council on 18 and 19 February 2016 on reasoned opinions issued by national parliaments in accordance with Article 7 (1) of Protocol No 2 on the application of the principle of subsidiarity.

Yours sincerely,

Svetlen Tanchev
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European funds in the
Bulgarian Parliament

Mette Gjerskov
Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Denmark

Kalle Palling
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Chairperson of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Latvian Parliament

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Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands

Izabela Kloc
Chairperson of the EU Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

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