

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Office of the First Vice-President Mr Frans Timmermans
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, **23 MARS 2015**
Ares (2015) 868420

Dear Mr Melding,

The First Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Frans Timmermans, has asked me to thank you for your letter of 27 February 2015 on EU governance.

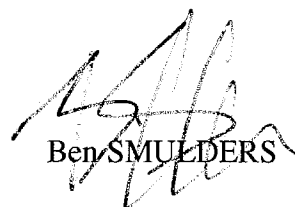
The Commission welcomes the interest of the National Assembly for Wales in EU affairs and has taken note of your committee's March 2014 report on Wales' role in the EU decision-making process.

As you have recognised, strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the EU is one of this Commission's key priorities and the Commission acknowledges the important role that both national and regional Parliaments have to play in this regard by engaging with their electorates and feeding views into the EU policy cycle.

The Commission attaches high importance to engaging with stakeholders at an early stage in the policy-formation phase, and interested parties, including regional Parliaments, are invited to make contributions to public consultations. The Commission and its services also remain at the disposal of regional bodies to discuss constructive proposals in the framework of their respective competences.

Finally, the Commission would like to recall that the provisions of Protocol 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality provide for regional Parliaments with legislative powers, such as the National Assembly for Wales, to be consulted where appropriate by their respective national Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,



Ben SMULDERS

Mr David MELDING AM
Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee
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