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Coalition for Sustainable EU Funds  
Rue d'Edimbourg 26  
1050 Brussels

Dear Coalition members,

The President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, asked me to thank you for your letter of 18 June, and your comments on the budget review. The Commission fully shares your view that Europe needs a comprehensive and genuine budget reform. We must have such a budget to tackle the challenges of the future, and use the limited resources of the EU budget to best effect.

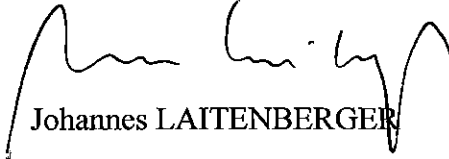
The postponement of the budget review to 2010 was jointly agreed between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council at the end of last year. This gave an opportunity to the new Commission to examine thoroughly the consequences of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, and to have a debate on its new policy priorities, including its vision for the EU in 2020, before moving to the budgetary consequences of these policy priorities.

I am pleased to inform you that the Commission will respect the revised timetable of the budget review – scheduled for the third quarter of 2010 – and does not intend to postpone the opening of negotiations on the next financial perspectives. The Commission will present its legislative proposals for the next multiannual financial framework during the first semester of 2011 in order to ensure adoption of the next financial perspectives in due time. The proposals should be agreed by the European Parliament and Council and adopted by the end of 2012 in order to leave enough time for the subsequent adoption of the legal basis for the sectoral programmes.

The Commission is convinced that the budget review will be a major initiative bringing high added value to the preparation of the proposals for the next multiannual financial framework. This process should ensure that the EU budget spending is in tune with our priorities, in particular the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth recently endorsed by the European Council.

I would like to thank you again for your views and support in this exercise.

Yours sincerely,



Johannes LAITENBERGER