



Valletta 2 March, 2015

The Hon S. Schembri
Chairman
Economic and Financial Affairs Committee
House of Representatives

The Hon L. Busuttil
Chairman
Foreign and European Affairs Committee
House of Representatives

Dear Hon Schembri and Hon Busuttil

As you are aware, the EU's economic governance has been significantly reinforced in the past years. EU legislation has been bolstered with new provisions that strengthen macroeconomic and budgetary surveillance, while the so-called European Semester - the process of economic and fiscal policy co-ordination - has been streamlined. In addition, the incoming Commission is introducing important initiatives to bolster growth and jobs, chief amongst which is the Investment Plan.

The European Commission gives significant importance to the active role of national Parliaments in the European Semester. Parliaments' effective involvement is pivotal to enhance democratic legitimacy, accountability and ownership thereby securing the success of this process. Similarly, the rolling out of recent consultation exercises, including that on Capital Markets' Union, would benefit greatly from Parliaments' input.

Most Member States' national Parliaments are already engaging regularly with the Commission's Representations in the capitals. The response is encouraging and of mutual benefit. Parliaments gain from being briefed with timely information on what the Commission is doing. This then feeds in debates and enables representatives to engage effectively and at an early stage in the development of EU legislative proposals and other policies. For the Commission, such direct contacts represent an opportunity to listen to the Parliaments' concerns.

In this light, the Representation would welcome the opportunity of an introductory meeting to explain further the latest developments with a view to discuss future co-operation in this area between our institutions.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Spiteri
ACTING HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Representation in Malta

