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Brussels, 29 September 2014
Ares (2014) 3190042

Dear President Schulz,

Thank you for your letter of 26 September 2014.

Let me reply to the three points made in the letter:

- *The Treaty on European Union makes it clear in its Preamble that the promotion of economic and social progress of the peoples of Europe takes into account the principle of sustainable development. Growth can only make a meaningful difference if it is able to last or continue for a long time. Acting in sustainable manner requires all of us to function outside closed silos and in a new collaborative way. This is exactly what I set out to do when presenting the new Commission. In it there are team leaders and team players working towards delivering the political priorities. I want to overcome silo-mentalities and introduce a new collaborative way of working in areas where Europe can really make a difference. Sustainable development is the simultaneous consideration of economics, life, environment and human well-being. In this sense, sustainability implies long-term and working for the benefit of future generations. I would find it too limiting to box-in sustainable development under the responsibility of a single Commissioner. Sustainable development should be taken into account by all institutions of the European Union when taking action to promote the economic and social progress of Europeans.*
- *Concerning the 7th Environment Action Programme, this programme shall contribute to a high level of environmental protection and to an improved quality of life and well-being for Europeans. The Commission shall ensure that the*

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implementation of the relevant elements of this roadmap to “living well within the limits of our planet” is monitored in the context of the regular monitoring process of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Inside the Commission Mr Karmenu Vella, has been entrusted with this task as part of his portfolio responsibilities as Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

- *Following discussions with all political groups in the Parliament, I included “A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base” as a priority in my Political Guidelines which I presented to the European Parliament on 15 July. To implement this objective, I have decided to establish a new Portfolio and a new Directorate-General which will be responsible for the whole legislation governing the internal market of products and services (apart from financial services). Health technology products, cosmetics and medicinal products will be part of this new Portfolio which is being entrusted to Ms Elzbieta Bienkowska. Public health-related issues will be under the responsibility of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety – Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, a former Minister of Health – and the Directorate-General responsible for Health, where two Directorates will be responsible for public health, health systems, health strategy and health technology assessment. In addition, I have transferred the competence for dealing with food waste and biocides to this portfolio.*

The Commissioner for Health and Food Safety will also be responsible for ensuring within my Commission, in a horizontal and cross-cutting manner, that all policies, decisions and initiatives respect and apply the Treaty provisions on public health, in line with Article 168 TFEU.

The two-Directorates-General, the Internal Market one and the one responsible for Health and Food Safety, will work together both in the relations with the European Medicines Agency and in the implementation of the EU legislation applied to medicinal products. The representation on the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency will, as in the past, be in the hands of the two Directorates-General. All decisions taken in relation to medicinal products will be taken by the Commission on the basis of proposals prepared jointly by the Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.

As President of the Commission I will make sure that public health will be at least as important in our policies as internal market considerations.

I hope this provides you with the necessary clarifications.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, elongated shape with a vertical stroke on the left and a horizontal stroke extending to the right, ending in a small hook.