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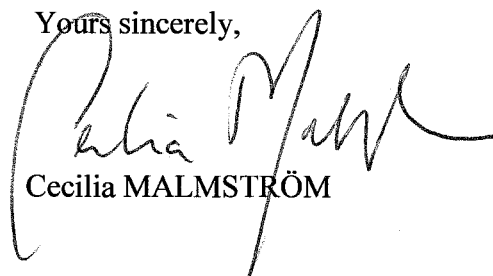
Dear Mr de Jong, Mr Albrecht, Ms Gomes and Ms Macovei,

Thank you for your letter of 19 March 2014 regarding the first EU Anti-Corruption Report. I am grateful for your constant support for the Commission's efforts to examine the nature of corruption across the EU and the effectiveness of the policies aiming to tackle it.

The Commission is open to considering all available options for an objective assessment of EU institutions in future EU Anti-Corruption Reports, which may also include the GRECO review mechanism. Such an assessment may also draw on the annual reports of OLAF which has competence to investigate fraud and corruption at EU institutions. The European Court of Auditors already plays a crucial role on budgetary issues, whereas the EU Anti-Corruption Report aims at a broader assessment of integrity measures to prevent and fight corruption, defined as the abuse of office for private gain.

I am confident that the Parliament and the Commission will work closely together to advance EU anti-corruption policy. In the meantime, I would be happy to engage in the informal discussion you suggest on the follow-up of the EU Anti-Corruption Report.

Yours sincerely,



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