

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Secretariat-General

Task Force for Strategic Issues related to the UK Referendum
The Director General

Brussels, 22 September 2015
JF/GM

Lord BOSWELL OF AYNHO
Chairman
European Union Committee
House of Lords
LONDON - SW1A 0PW
United Kingdom

euclords@parliament.uk

Dear Lord Boswell,

I refer to your letter of 28 July 2015, addressed to the President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, in which you kindly enclosed the report of the EU Committee of the House of Lords, "The referendum on UK membership of the EU: assessing the reform process". Mr Juncker has asked me to reply to your letter and to your request for comments on the enclosed report.

As your report itself sets out, I have been appointed by Mr Juncker to head a Task Force for Strategic Issues related to the UK referendum. The Task Force is currently in the first phase of its work, namely coordinating the Commission's work on all strategic issues related to the UK ahead of the referendum. In a later phase it will be in charge of overseeing the Commission's input to information activities in the run up to the UK Referendum.

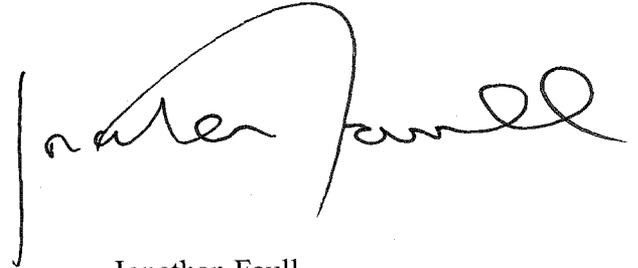
The report of the House of Lords EU Committee raises many questions of direct relevance for the work of the Task Force and I have read it with much interest. The issues relating to the United Kingdom's own internal processes fall, however, outside of the remit of the Task Force. Concerning the question of the agenda for renegotiation, President Juncker has made clear that he wants to help the United Kingdom find a solution that is fair for the United Kingdom and fair for the EU as a whole. The Commission is ready to discuss specific proposals presented by the United Kingdom government. On the basis of the informal discussions that have already taken place, the Commission expects that the issue raised in your report, concerning the question of enhancing the role of national parliaments, will be amongst the proposals presented.

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I note that the report states the intention of the House of Lords EU Committee to engage with the EU institutions in the coming months and I look forward therefore to further contact on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Faull'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jonathan Faull