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VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear colleagues,

You have received an invitation for a political concertation on Monday, 7th November 2011.

I am aware of the fact that this meeting will take place only shortly after the end of the technical consultations. However, I may recall that our talks started on 5 May 2011 during a meeting where I announced changes to the Staff Regulations and where I informed you that I was open to discuss any proposal you may have concerning more efficiency and economies in the European Institutions. Since then, six months have elapsed.

In the meantime, the political situation has changed and requires a quick and strong signal from the European Institutions that the European civil service is sharing the efforts made by many Member States.

Furthermore, this year's annual adjustment proves difficult with a new request under Article 241 TFUE just being adopted by the Council and the risk of triggering another public discussion about salaries and working conditions in the European civil service which can be once more detrimental to the reputation of the European Institutions.

For these reasons, I wish to raise the discussions to the political level now and to be in a position to put on the table a formal proposal for amending the Staff Regulations as soon as possible.

I see the establishment of this dialogue at a political level as an opportunity to discuss openly the questions you have raised during the earlier phases of consultation.

In particular, I am well aware of the importance of the changes proposed in the area of careers and of the fact that you have formulated counter-proposals. I am ready to examine these counter-proposals at my level and, if necessary, to have them further elaborated at technical level, provided of course we remain within the boundaries of our budgetary estimates and provided we act quickly.

Yours sincerely,

