



Brussels, 26 May 2026

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing following recent reports concerning a possible restructuring of the European Commission that could lead to the partial merger or even disappearance of several Directorates-General - including those responsible for regional policy, employment, agriculture, maritime affairs and research - within a broader, centralised investment-focused architecture linked to the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

We would like to express our deep concern regarding this perspective.

For decades, these Directorates-General have represented much more than administrative structures. They have been political and institutional cornerstones of European integration, accompanying regions, municipalities, universities, farmers, workers and coastal communities across Europe and building trust in the European project.

Weakening or dismantling these services would send a deeply contradictory political signal. The Commission itself has made a series of flagship commitments such as the "Right to Stay" strategy, the European Affordable Housing Plan, the new Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights that can only be delivered through strong, specialised administrations with territorial knowledge and established partnerships on the ground. A centralised administration cannot substitute for that.

Europe needs sectoral administrations close to the realities they serve. The added value of cohesion, agricultural, maritime, social and R&I policies, lies in their territorial dimension, in multilevel governance, and in the long-term institutional capacity built over decades. Concentrating the management of these funds in a single centralised service, be it in Brussels or in national capitals, would cut the connection between European investment and the communities it is meant to serve. We are equally concerned by the manner in which these decisions are being prepared. Both the future of the MFF and the restructuring of the Commission's services have been approached in a top-down fashion, often bypassing the knowledge and experience of those most familiar with implementation.

While we recognise the need to improve effectiveness and simplify spending instruments, this cannot come at the expense of the administrative capacity needed to deliver these policies effectively and accountably. Centralisation at the European level, paradoxically, does not mean more Europe. Concentrating decision-making in fewer administrative structures while reducing the specialised capacity of sectoral Directorates-General can only lead to one outcome: the progressive renationalisation of European policies. If the institutional knowledge and partnership networks built over decades are dismantled, Member States will inevitably fill the void on their own terms. The

result will be less democratic oversight at EU level, a diminished role for the European Parliament, and a weakening of the common European interest that these policies are meant to serve. This is a trajectory we cannot accept.

We therefore urge the Commission to preserve strong, autonomous and politically ambitious Directorates-General in these policy areas and to clarify its intentions in this regard. Europe's ability to deliver on its commitments to citizens depends on maintaining a strong European administrative presence, close to the ground and accountable to a common European framework.

Yours sincerely,

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