



Frans Timmermans  
First Vice President  
European Commission

Brussels, 19 April 2017

Dear Mr Timmermans,

We would like to thank you once again for accepting to intervene at the General Assembly of Civil Society Europe on Friday 28 April from 10:00 to 11:00.

We welcome the possibility to discuss with you a EU mechanism on the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights with an open debate with civil society representatives.

Here are the main issues that we would like to discuss:

- What the Commission's proposal is going to be as a follow up of the EP proposal ?  
How would civic space freedoms be protected as part of the European Commission proposed measures?
- Would the mechanism be sufficient to address situations such as the one we are facing in Hungary with the NGO law, etc?
- What would be the link of such a mechanism with article 7 of the Treaties?

We also expect our members to raise questions more broadly on civic space .

Please find enclosed for your reference a brief document outlining our perspective on a EU mechanism on the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights and civic space freedoms, as well as for your information the draft agenda of our General Assembly .

CSE Coordinator, Carlotta Besozzi is at the disposal of your staff for any further explanation.

I am looking forward to meeting you next week.

Yours sincerely

Jean-Marc Roirant