José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Strasbourg, 25 November 2009

Dear Mr Reinfeldt, Mr Van Rompuy and Mr Barroso,

Re Postponement of the adoption Europe 2020 agenda to December 2010

We write on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament to ask you to postpone the adoption of the Europe 2020 agenda to December 2010, and not, as currently foreseen, for the March 2010 council.

This post Lisbon agenda will have huge consequences on the political orientation, objectives, actions and investments of the EU for the next decade. We believe that this decision should be taken with adequate time for genuine democratic debate and reflection, and it should include proper consultation with citizens and civil society, as provided for by Article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty.

The Commission made a commitment to the European Parliament that a presentation of the proposal and a public consultation would take place in September 2009, but it seems that this has been postponed until the end of November. It is evident that there will not be sufficient time for the Commission's minimum standards for consultations to be met if the Council is scheduled to adopt the post Lisbon agenda in March 2010. Furthermore, the European Parliament will not have time to properly consider and make recommendations on the Europe 2020 Agenda before March 2010.

We are in a time of great change: the Lisbon Treaty will come into force on 1 December 2009 and we also need to take time to evaluate its impact on the 2020 Agenda. Also the decisions of COP-15 in Copenhagen and the taking up of duties of the new College of Commissioners in February 2010 (which will be expected to take political ownership of the proposal) will affect this Agenda.

We hope that you appreciate the reasons why we have asked for a postponement of the adoption of the Europe 2020 Agenda.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Harms
Co-President
Greens/EFA Group

Dany Cohn Bendit
Co-President
Greens/EFA Group