Dear Mr President,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 13 September transmitting the proposed measures and the text of the draft decision requesting the United Nations General Assembly to provide the necessary support for additional meetings of the Human Rights Council, for adoption at its 36th session.

Writing on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, I would like to express our gratitude to you, the members of the Bureau, and the Joint Task Force for your thorough efforts to analyse, and present proposals on, the workload of the Human Rights Council.

I would like to express the support of the EU-28 to these timely efforts, the four proposed measures, and the draft HRC decision, submitted to allow for a better and more efficient organisation of the Council’s work.

The EU also wishes to strongly encourage going beyond requesting to increase the budget allocation for additional meetings and to adopt concrete measures to lessen the workload of the Council. Our understanding is that, provided the General Assembly decides favourably on the USD 223,000 request, each of the first two proposed measures (streamlining panel discussions or the plenary segment of the UPR) may in itself be sufficient to save enough time for the Council to be able to hold the number of meetings necessary, and to revert to speaking times as before. I assume this is the case, and would like to share with you my assessment that our Member States would prefer to streamline the duration of panel discussions rather than the UPR plenary segment which would be giving up the possibility of expressing themselves.

Finally, we consider that the issue of the working methods of the Human Rights Council should be kept on the agenda of the Bureau as a standing agenda point.

Thanking you again, I would like to wish you success in your efforts to improve the organisation of the Council’s work, as well as in your endeavours in general.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Peter Sørensen