



**322131 21.XII.2009**

The President

Fredrik Reinfeldt  
President-in-Office  
Council of the European Union  
175, rue de la Loi  
B-1048 Brussels

Dear President-in-Office, *Dear Fredrik,*

The Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament took the opportunity this morning to discuss the proposed 'SWIFT Agreement' on the processing and transfer of financial messaging data from the European Union to the United States for the purposes of the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program.

The meeting invited me to write to inform you that, in accordance with Article 218 (6) TFEU, we would like the Council to formally refer the interim SWIFT Agreement to the European Parliament as soon as possible, so that the Parliament may decide on whether to confer its consent to such an agreement, in good time, before its envisaged entry into force on 1 February 2010 for a nine-month period.

The meeting also asked me to inform you that, as a condition for granting its consent to the interim SWIFT Agreement, the Parliament would expect the Council to state in advance that it will ensure that the following requirements are met in the negotiation for the long-term SWIFT Agreement, which will begin shortly:

- i) the Council's negotiating mandate should fully reflect the concerns of, and recommendations made by, the European Parliament in its resolutions on the subject; and
- ii) the Parliament should be given access to all relevant documents and other information that is made available to the Council for the purpose of making its decision.

Therefore, I would kindly request that the Council proceed, on this basis, with the formal referral to the Parliament of the interim agreement at the very latest before the end of this year.

I am copying this letter to your successor as President-in-Office, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, for information.

Yours sincerely,

**Jerzy Buzek**