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***Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament***

*Parliamentary Debate Revision of the Framework Agreement on relations  
between the European Parliament and the European Commission (debate)*

*07 February 2018, Strasbourg*

Madam President,

let me start by emphasising that no way back can be accepted by this Parliament with regard to the democratisation of the procedure for electing the President of the Commission.

This crystal clear message was delivered by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs when adopting, by a large majority, the report endorsing the revision of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission, two weeks ago.

The *Spitzenkandidaten* process is, for us, a matter of democracy and transparency. It is a matter of connecting Europe and its citizens, of building a bottom-up Europe. The European Parliament wants European citizens to have a say on the choice of the Commission President and this decision can no longer be made behind closed doors.

The *Spitzenkandidaten* process, launched in 2014, reinforces the political accountability of the Commission and gives a stronger role the European political parties. The political tradition of these parties has always been to stand for a European approach in dealing with the challenges the European Union is facing. We have been through this process once already. The practice is already there, but we need a shared commitment on the part of the European institutions.