

Brussels, 25 January 2020

Dear colleagues,

Following the meetings held at Sherpa level, I have decided to call a special meeting of the European Council that will begin on 20 February 2020.

The time has come to reach an agreement at our level on the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Any postponement would create serious practical and political problems and jeopardise the continuation of current programs and policies as well as the launch of new ones.

I am fully aware that these negotiations are among the most difficult ones we have to face. But I am also convinced that with common sense and determination we can strike a deal that will benefit all Europeans.

To achieve this, all sides will need to demonstrate a spirit of compromise. I count on your support in this respect.

In the coming days I will consult with you before tabling an overall proposal in view of the February meeting, which will be prepared in the usual fashion.

Best regards

Charles MICHEL