



5 January 2020

Dear Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen

I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as the EU's Commissioner for International Partnerships. I look very much forward to cooperating with you in the coming years and hope to align the Danish and the European development policy priorities even further.

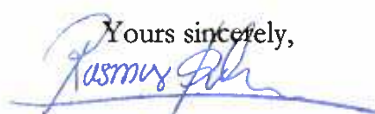
You assume your portfolio at a time when fundamental rights and values and the multilateral system are under increasing global pressure, but also at a time characterized by hope and optimism especially among the African youth. I believe the foundation for tackling the challenges lies in confronting global inequality, showing greater global solidarity, and building mutually beneficial partnerships, not least between EU-Africa.

Denmark is ready to support you and your colleagues in the work for a new comprehensive strategy with Africa to the benefit of both Africa and the EU. At a time when there is a renewed rush for influence on the African continent from a number of state and non-state actors, it is crucial that the strategy is firmly rooted in our fundamental European values. We should strengthen our emphasis on Africa's key opportunities and work for better governance and decent jobs to provide hope and local opportunities for the African youth.

Regions across Africa face increasing security, climate and migration challenges, including the Sahel. A comprehensive EU strategy with Africa must address irregular migration and climate change having the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in mind. Denmark also attach great importance to the EU supporting common efforts to further protect and promote gender equality, and women's and girl's sexual and reproductive rights in the world.

I look forward to meeting you at the earliest possible occasion to discuss our common priorities and our future cooperation on these important agendas. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to Copenhagen in early 2020 to continue the discussion on the above priorities.

Please accept my best wishes for your term in office.

Yours sincerely,

Rasmus Prehn

EU-Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen