

Brussels, 5 May 2014

Re: Open Letter from European Digital Champions

Dear Ms Mettler, dear Mr Westlake,

Thank you very much for your letter, which I received last week, and the open letter drafted by the EU Digital Champions to the *Spitzenkandidaten* for European Commission President, encouraging them to develop a bold and ambitious digital strategy for their electoral platforms.

Your letter and the ideas included therein are most welcome to me. I would call it a true meeting of the minds in that I myself outlined the idea of a digital single market as one of my five priorities as Commission President in a press conference a week before I received your letter. You will find the transcript of my statements at <http://juncker.epp.eu/press-releases/press-conference-30-days-go-until-elections-time-its-different>, as well as a more detailed presentation of my thoughts on the digital single market in my Helsinki speech “New Growth without Debt: My Priorities as Commission President” (16 April 2014), published at <http://juncker.epp.eu/press-releases/new-growth-without-debt-my-priorities-commission-president>.

It is encouraging for me and my campaign team that the direction in which we want to take Europe over the next five years is one that is also strongly favoured by the EU Digital Champions and by the Lisbon Council—the work of which I know well and hold in high esteem. I found the arguments advanced in the open letter and the figures on jobs and growth used by you to be very supportive for my plan for a digital single market. I intend to make use of these arguments in the weeks to come when I will continue to advocate for a strongly digitally-oriented European Commission.

I am convinced that the digital theme must move beyond the world of techies. Digital must become a priority of mainstream politics in Europe. This is what I will work for. To become Europe’s first digital Commission President. A President who will not have lost his capacity to use a pen or read a book. But a President whose policies will bring about a digital single market at the service of Europe’s citizens and of growth and jobs for our whole continent.

I recommend that you and the EU Digital Champions subscribe to our Thunderclap, available here: <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/11305-digital-jobs-withjuncker>, as you will see further announcements from me on the digital theme on 6 May. And of course, I will follow with interest your press conference on 15 May, where you can of course mention that the digital single market is the number one priority in my plan for bringing Europe back on the track of growth and jobs.

I am looking forward to working closely with you and the EU Digital Champions after my election as President of the European Commission.

Sincerely yours,



Jean-Claude Juncker