



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Thierry Breton
Member of the Commission

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DEFIS.B.1/LS

Dr. Robert Habeck MdB
Federal Minister

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Dear Minister,

I share your view about space's key strategic role in shaping our common future. In that perspective, we look up to IRIS² along with the other flagship programmes for the EU and its Member States to be able to respond to geopolitical imperatives and agreed needs with a sense of urgency and a spirit of sincere cooperation.

Having said that, your letter raises a series of concerns which urgently need to be clarified in order for all parties involved in that emblematic effort to continue working upon the same understanding.

Firstly, regarding the ongoing IRIS² procurement process let me firmly underline the mandate of the Commission which is to strictly comply with the Financial Regulation and IRIS² Regulation provisions on procurement.

The Commission cannot therefore comment on any aspect of the ongoing procurement process nor accept any interference with the work of the related independent Tender Evaluation Committee insofar as they directly undermine the integrity and regularity of the whole process. Moreover, let me remind that strict confidentiality should be observed by all involved stakeholders of the procurement process.

In light of the above, while we can debate political objectives, I cannot accept any political pressure upon the services conducting the current procurement procedure, even more so the submitted offer.

Rest assured that the Commission has been and will continue sharing information relating to the intermediate and final results of the evaluation procedure in the framework of the Programme Committee as set out in article 26(7) of the IRIS² Regulation.

In that context, Member States will be timely and duly informed of all pertinent aspects relating to the evaluated offer allowing them a full insight into the matter.

Secondly, regarding the programmatic finality of IRIS², let me reiterate that the mandate of the Commission – as decided by the co-legislators - is primarily to ensure the provision of Hardgov services through a Governmental Infrastructure financed and owned by the Union.

Insofar as commercial services are concerned, the Commission is requested by law to enable their provision, leveraging the synergies with the development of commercial infrastructure providing commercial services, and not to impose them as a primary objective or promote any specific commercial use. Therefore, any references to commercial ideas and ambitions pertain to the private sector itself.

Last but not least, in the face of the aforementioned concerns I would rather urge working together in a true spirit of sincere cooperation which can only but promote our joint effort, and therefore refrain from untoward stances of pre-empting the end result of a regulated procurement process by law.

In a broader sense I trust you agree that during a time of war in our continent and in preparing for geopolitical challenges our utmost task is to deliver on such a critical capability.

I regret we missed our scheduled phone call, but I am happy to meet with you in person in Berlin in two weeks from now.

Yours faithfully,



Thierry Breton