



**Council of the European Union**

The President

BK
+ 25. Okt. 2016 +
Eing.-Nr.

S6S16/09099

Brussels,

**19 -10- 2016**

LT 264/16

Mr Johann N. SCHNEIDER-AMMANN  
President of the Swiss Confederation  
c/o Mission of the Swiss Confederation  
to the European Union  
Place du Luxembourg, 1  
1050 BRUSSELS

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 2016, by which you inform the European Union (the 'EU') that the Swiss application for EU membership should be considered withdrawn.

The Council of the EU has also taken good note of the confirmation by the Swiss Federal Council of its firm commitment to preserve and further strengthen cooperation with the EU.

The EU attaches great importance to its relations with Switzerland. The EU and Switzerland are key economic partners and our societies are highly interwoven. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that it is in the interest of both the EU and Switzerland that our cooperation is strengthened on a basis which fully respects the legal principles of the Single Market. We are also convinced that good and reliable mutual relations in the future are to the benefit of both sides.

Yours faithfully,



M. LAJČÁK