



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 10.7.2017

C(2017) 4895 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) {COM(2016) 767 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senat's support for the proposal which was adopted as a part of the Clean Energy for all Europeans package, and which is an important element of the Energy Union Framework Strategy. The measures included in the package focus on the following three main objectives: energy efficiency first, achievement of a global leadership in renewable energies and a fair deal for consumers.

The proposal in particular puts forward a number of measures across the various sectors aimed at fostering the deployment of renewables. This ambitious set of measures would allow Member States collectively and the European Union as a whole to reach the binding EU-level target of at least 27% of renewable energy in gross final consumption in 2030.

As regards the Senat's concerns that Romania's efforts in fulfilling its 2020 renewable energy target be duly taken into account, the Commission would like to stress that the Energy Union Governance clearly provides that the sharing of efforts between Member States should be fair and that early efforts made by Member States should be taken into account in view of the fulfilment of the Union's 2030 renewable energy target.

The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Senat as regards Member States' freedom to choose their own energy mix, a principle laid down in Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission would like to emphasise that Article 23 of the proposal endeavours to achieve an increase in renewable energy for heating and cooling of 1% per year. That provision is designed to provide a broad level of flexibility for Member States to enact measures allowing for more deployment of renewable energy in this crucial sector.

Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU

President of the Senat

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In the same spirit, Article 25 of the proposal introduces an obligation which does not translate into a sub-target for Member States and which allows for a high degree of flexibility in its implementation.

The Commission would also like to stress that renewable electricity produced by virtue of Article 5 and Articles 9 to 13 of the proposal is fully subject to the terms and conditions of the cooperation agreements between the Member States involved, which are therefore free to decide on the costs of the projects developed under the Directive.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal adopted by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*