



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.7.2018  
C(2018) 4500 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Communication on 'EU actions to improve environmental compliance and governance' {COM(2018) 10 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's interest in this initiative, which is particularly aimed at helping national authorities to ensure better implementation of European Union environmental legislation, notably in the field of water, air, nature and waste management. This legislation helps secure not only the quality of life of our citizens but also underpins important economic objectives, such as a well-functioning circular economy.*

*The Commission welcomes the consideration given by the Camera Deputaților to the different actions set out in the Communication. It would like to stress that these actions are mainly a response to a demand for practical support to practitioners working across the Union to ensure compliance in the field of environment. They also respond to a consultation process which involved Member States and European networks of environmental professionals, such as the EU Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), the network of police officers specialised on combatting environmental crime (EnviCrimeNet), the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), and the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE).*

*The Commission has taken note of the Camera Deputaților's concerns and recommendations and is pleased to have the opportunity to provide a number of clarifications regarding the initiative.*

*The individual actions envisaged are designed to allow for a full collaboration with Member States and the networks mentioned. As the Camera Deputaților correctly notes, there are many different circumstances in terms of environmental conditions and societal and administrative features across the European Union. The actions are intended to take*

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*into account all these different conditions and features and to encourage Member States to make the efforts that they consider appropriate. The rationale of the actions and their expected added value are summarised in the Communication and explained in detail in the accompanying Staff Working Document, {SWD(2018) 10 final}. The Commission believes that the implementation of these actions will foster a collaborative culture of compliance with EU environmental rules.*

*As regards the Camera Deputaţilor's reference to the availability of EU-funding mechanisms, the Commission notes that these mechanisms allow Member States to receive tailored financial support.*

*The Commission also recalls that the Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum was established as a formal Commission expert group in order to provide steering for the delivery of the actions, allow an exchange of views with Member State senior managers on new priority actions and serve as a high-level platform for discussing strategic governance topics.*

*Romania has already positively engaged with some of the mechanisms covered by the Commission initiative, notably the TAIEX-EIR Peer2Peer tool<sup>1</sup> and the IMPEL Review Initiative. The Commission trusts that Romania has drawn benefits from these and hopes that it will derive further benefits from the initiative as it evolves.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/p2p/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/p2p/index_en.htm)