



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado for their Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Risk Preparedness in the Electricity Sector {COM(2016) 862 final} and on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union {COM(2016) 759 final}. The Commission welcomes the Congreso de los Diputados' and the Senado's broad support for the proposals.

These proposals were adopted as part of the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' package with a view to strengthening the security of electricity supply and to put in place the necessary legislative framework to achieve the objectives of the Energy Union, notably the 2030 energy and climate targets. Together with the other initiatives in the package, these proposals promote secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy.

The proposal on Risk Preparedness aims at ensuring that citizens in Europe are better protected against black-outs at a lesser cost. It would ensure that all Member States put in place appropriate tools to prevent, prepare for and manage electricity crisis situations. The initiative also requires Member States to cooperate with each other in a regional context and a spirit of solidarity, with a view to ensuring that electricity is delivered where it is most needed in the event of an electricity crisis situation.

The increasing interconnection of electricity markets in the European Union requires the coordination of security of supply measures. In the absence of such coordination, it is likely that measures adopted at national level could jeopardise the internal market and the security of supply in other Member States or across the Union. In addition, regional cooperation could provide important benefits for consumers in terms of enhanced security of supply with more efficient and less costly measures. Member States have to agree on the regionally coordinated measures in order to ensure that crisis situations with a cross border impact are properly prevented and managed. At the same time, the proposal ensures that national specificities are taken into account when Member States prepare their Risk Preparedness Plans.

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The proposal on Governance aims at ensuring that the objectives of the Energy Union are reached through a coherent and sufficiently ambitious set of measures at national and Union level. It is based on streamlining, integrating and simplifying existing planning, reporting and monitoring obligations in the energy and climate field, and it introduces a robust political iterative process between Member States and the European Union institutions on the preparation and implementation of integrated national energy and climate plans. This framework would help ensuring transparency and foresight on national policies and measures, providing the necessary certainty for investments which would be beneficial for jobs and growth in the energy sector. The initiative would also ensure that the European Union and its Member States honour their commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The Governance provides an unprecedented opportunity to have comparable, comprehensive and integrated national energy and climate plans, but at the same time ensures that Member States retain significant flexibility to take account of specific national circumstances and preferences.

The Commission would also like to highlight that the proposed Regulation on Governance promotes a transparent and participatory process for the preparation of the national energy and climate plans. While it is for the Member States to decide on the institutional setup to prepare the national plans, the Commission trusts that the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado will play an active role in preparing the Spanish national plan, the draft of which should be submitted in January 2018.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*