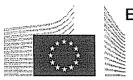**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Brussels, *03. 01. 2013*
C(2012) *9639* final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: a Bioeconomy for Europe" {COM(2012) 60 final}.

The Commission agrees that the potential impact of new and existing policy instruments in the field of bioeconomy should be carefully assessed, in particular with regard to the use of renewable biological resources. In this respect, the Bioeconomy Strategy also foresees to improve the knowledge-base and to foster innovation for producing quality biomass at a competitive price without compromising food security, or adding pressure on primary production and the environment. The issue of indirect land use change is of particular importance and should be duly reviewed. As announced in the Bioeconomy Strategy, the Commission is currently setting-up a Bioeconomy Observatory in close collaboration with existing information systems, to regularly assess the progress and impact of the bioeconomy and develop forward-looking and modelling tools.

As recognised by the Senát, the Bioeconomy Strategy can be successful only if the interaction between a wide-range of bioeconomy related policies is reinforced. A Bioeconomy Panel will be established to enhance synergies and coherence between policies, initiatives and economic sectors related to the bioeconomy at EU level.

The involvement of stakeholders, regions and Member States is also crucial. The bioeconomy in Europe could be further developped with the active engagement of the Czech authorities, for example when identifying the opportunities for Czech research institutions and businesses in the bioeconomy.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised in the Opinion and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senát in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President

Milan Štech
President of the Czech Senate
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
118 01 Praha
Czech Republic