



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.10.2013
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Mr. Milan Štěch
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAHA 1

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication on renewable energies {COM(2012) 271} and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission notes that the Opinion broadly welcomes and endorses Commission policy on the reform of renewable energy support schemes and the provision of guidance on such.

The Commission concurs that the guidance will be non-binding. However, national support schemes for renewable energy must always be tested for their necessity, proportionality and impact on the internal market. This is one reason why the Commission is preparing the guidance.

The Commission acknowledges Member States' current use of multiple national support schemes. The Commission is not proposing a compulsory single support scheme but does believe that significant efficiencies and cost savings could be gained from greater cooperation between Member States in the exploitation of renewable energy sources.

Regarding the sustainability of biofuels, the Commission would note that until other large scale options are available, biofuels that conform to the EU's sustainability criteria are a positive way of reducing dependence on fossil fuel in the transport sector. The Commission continues to monitor biofuels consumption for any negative impacts¹.

In 2009 the EU established legally binding targets for the share of renewable energy in 2020, taking EU competitiveness into consideration. The Commission has recently launched a Green Paper and public consultation on the appropriate policy regime for 2030².

¹ See COM(2013) 175

² See COM(2013) 169

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the points raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing this dialogue in the future

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*