



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 12.8.2013  
C(2013) 5316 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Czech Senát for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication on a Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery, {COM(2012) 582 final} and apologises for the deadline in replying.*

*As rightly pointed out in the Opinion, Czech manufacturing industry already accounts for a significant share of the country's GDP. It is also encouraging that the Opinion supports many of the ideas that the Commission put forward in its Communication. Indeed, all policy factors mentioned in the Opinion will be relevant for a truly integrated industrial policy.*

*As concerns the differing roles of SMEs and large enterprises, the Commission has taken several policy initiatives to promote the growth and competitiveness of Europe's SMEs. In the framework of our industrial policy, nevertheless, it is clear that all jobs and all enterprises play a crucial role. We do need our large enterprises as engines of growth, competitiveness and innovation.*

*To a large extent, our Industrial Policy aims at establishing appropriate framework conditions. In this context, any specific initiatives for promotion of SME competitiveness cannot be interpreted as being undertaken at the expense of large enterprises. The special attention paid to funding alternatives to SMEs is justified because, as is well known, large enterprises usually have better and easier access to finance, whereas this can be a real concern for small companies. Most of our policy initiatives and actions, whether horizontal or sectoral, target the whole population of enterprises, and so benefit large enterprises as well.*

*As concerns the use of Structural Funds, the proposal for a Regulation concerning the European Regional Development Fund for the 2014-2020 programming period has introduced a restriction on support for large enterprises compared to the current period, in order to better target support to business.*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH  
President of the Senát  
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4  
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

*This means that the Commission is open to continue supporting large enterprises in the areas of research, innovation and energy efficiency, in line with the objectives of supporting Europe 2020 through cohesion funds. Nevertheless, it considers that support for generic productive investment in large enterprises, irrespective of the objective, as is currently the case, will not bring sustainable benefits.*

*The Commission's services are currently working on the implementation of the Industrial Policy Communication. A continued participation and involvement by Member States and stakeholders will be crucial for the success of our policies. That is why the Senát's opinion is so important and timely for our continued policy development.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our dialogue and co-operation in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*