



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 14 I 2013

C(2014) 33 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Green Paper on long term financing of the European economy {COM(2013) 150 final}.

The Commission shares the belief of the Senát that a stable and predictable business environment as well as a clear and transparent system of providing long-term financing is a prerequisite for the implementation of major investment projects and is in the interest of the EU as a whole.

The Commission acknowledges that in the short-term bank deleveraging can have consequences on growth, especially on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who have historically relied on bank lending. But the Commission is also convinced of the necessary deleveraging of banks due to past excesses and excessive risk-taking. In addition, SMEs are currently faced with fragmented financial markets in the EU, as access to finance conditions vary considerably from country to country. The Commission is aware of the situation, and, in fact, finding alternative sources of finance for SMEs and easing their financing conditions is one of the drivers of the publication of the Green Paper.

What emerges more generally from the consultation is that in order to improve the channelling of finance to long term investments, there is no single major measure, but rather a myriad of targeted measures that could be taken. In the Follow-up Communication, which will present the possible actions the Commission intends to undertake in response to the consultation, the Commission will provide, at the beginning of 2014, an overview of those measures, which will refer to the implementation of the regulatory framework, to new proposals, as well as to measures that will require further analysis and investigation. The Communication will also point to a number of areas where actions taken by Member States or by stakeholders could improve the situation for long-term finance.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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President of the Senát
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