



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 14.1.2014
C(2013) 18 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Consultative Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020 {COM (2013) 167 final}.

This Consultative Communication aims at initiating a debate with the Member States, the EU institutions and stakeholders on the design of the new international climate Agreement that should be agreed by 2015 in the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. A stakeholder conference was organised in Brussels on 17 April 2013, and an online public consultation via the Commission web portal was carried out between 26 March and 26 June 2013.

In that context, the Commission welcomes the Opinion of the Senát. The Commission will carefully analyse the various contributions received from stakeholders, as an important input for the further development of the EU's position in the international negotiations. The questions presented by the Commission require answers as highlighted by the Senát.

It is important to underline that the EU is far from alone in its effort to set binding global limits on greenhouse gas emissions. Apart from the 38 Parties covered under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2013-2020), more than 60 other countries, including the United States, China, India, South Africa and Brazil, have now pledged mitigation action for the period up to 2020 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This brings the total share of global emissions covered by international mitigation commitments under both the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention to more than 80%.

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Moreover, a key assumption of the work on the 2015 Agreement is that it shall be “applicable to all”. This assumption, agreed by all parties at the Durban conference in 2011, which launched the negotiations on the new agreement, implies that all parties, and in particular all major economies, shall agree on adequate mitigation commitments, which will need to reflect today's and tomorrow's realities and capabilities in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. This will be crucial to secure an agreement allowing for the below 2°C objective to be achieved, and that will also be fair and ensure a level playing field, thereby securing its climate objective while keeping in mind the energy and competitiveness dimensions as raised by the Senát.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future, as the EU position is being refined and negotiations move forward.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*