



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.1.2014
C(2013) 14 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – An EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change {COM (2013) 216 final}.

The Commission appreciates the support expressed by the Senát as regards the recently adopted EU Strategy in this relatively new policy field, emphasising that the Strategy builds on the 2009 White Paper "Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action".

The Commission shares the Senát's view that the sub-programme for Climate Action under the new LIFE instrument will be instrumental in catalysing adaptation action in the EU. It is worth noting in this regard that the majority of priority areas identified in the Strategy for LIFE funding are related to water management highlighted in point 4 of the Senát's Opinion).

The Commission is aware that funding will be a critical factor in implementing adaptation. That is why the Commission has included adaptation in its proposals for all relevant EU finance programmes, and not limited to the LIFE Programme, for the next budget period 2014-2020 with a plan to increase climate related expenditure in this period to at least 20% of the EU budget.

The European Structural and Investment funds, which constitute over 40 % of the EU-budget, will provide significant support to Member States, regions and cities for integrating adaptation into programmes and projects. This will be complemented, inter alia, by the Horizon 2020 research programme.

The Commission makes several references to disaster management, highlighting, inter alia, that adaptation action is closely related and should be implemented in synergy and full coordination with the disaster risk management policies that the EU and the Member States are developing.

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

Copernicus is indeed to become a central instrument as the EU's contribution to the global framework for climate services, addressing a need for detailed sectoral information. The reference to Copernicus in the Communication is relatively short, but further development will take place in the coming years following the adoption of a future Regulation.

In preparing the Strategy, the Commission has carefully sought to add value through the provision of funding, guidelines, and other tools for capacity building and exchanging experience, and to limit any increase in administrative burden for the Member States.

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*