



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 6.8.2014
C(2014) 5767 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Communication 'Free movement of EU citizens and their families: Five actions to make a difference' {COM (2013) 837 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's support for the Commission's efforts to improve the conditions of free movement, especially in view of the importance of free movement as one of the cornerstones of the internal market, and also the Senát's recognition that a selective application of the fundamental freedoms would lead to disruption of the internal market.

With regard to the appropriateness of a quantitative approach to the possible abuse of free movement, the Commission considers that an evidence-based approach to policy making in this area is essential.

As abuse weakens free movement, the Commission took very seriously the claims made by some Member States about alleged abuses of free movement. On this basis, the Commission requested Member States to substantiate these claims. The communication set out all the data received in detail, and the data did not support the argument of widespread abuse and fraud in relation to free movement.

Similarly, as regards the field of social security coordination, the Commission also supports Member States in preventing fraud and error. Reports from Member States do not, however, indicate that there is widespread or systematic cross-border social security fraud or error.

The Commission is fully aware that the recent debate has led to negative perceptions in parts of the population. It is for this reason that the Commission presented in its Communication five actions to support national authorities in implementing free movement on the ground.

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

It is a joint responsibility of Member States and the EU's institutions to counter public perceptions. It is also a joint responsibility to use all available tools to the full, including those that exist at EU level, to support Member States in implementing free movement and to tackle possible abusive conduct.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Martine REICHERTS
Member of the Commission*