



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2015) 4905 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication "A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy" {COM(2015) 80 final} and for the Poslanecká sněmovna's support to the Strategy.*

*The Framework Strategy for the Energy Union builds on important achievements in 2014, notably the agreement on the 2030 Framework for climate and energy policies and the European Energy Security Strategy. Based on five mutually reinforcing dimensions, the Energy Union aims to address the three objectives of security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness, through a strong commitment by the EU institutions and the Member States to deepen integration, cooperation and coordination.*

*The Commission would like to highlight that central initiatives included in the Framework Strategy allow Member States, where appropriate, the flexibility to choose policies that are suitable for their national energy mix and preferences, while at the same time ensuring progress towards a competitive, secure and sustainable energy system through more integration, competition and cooperation between Member States. The Commission gives much importance to close cooperation with Member States to implement the Strategy, as also illustrated by Maroš Šefčovič's visit to the Czech Parliament on 26 May 2015 in the context of his Energy Union Tour.*

*The Commission agrees with the Poslanecká sněmovna that the further development of the internal energy market is a key priority to attain EU's competitiveness, security and sustainability objectives. In this vein, the EU is working to put in place a regulatory framework to drive the creation of an open, integrated and competitive single market for energy. The Commission will publish a consultative Communication on electricity market design by the summer. This Communication will be followed by more concrete proposals to improve the current legal framework in 2016.*

*The Commission also shares the Poslanecká sněmovna's view that it is crucial and urgent to invest in generation, smart transmission and distribution infrastructure, as well as storage, but this should be done in tune with the EU energy transition goal which also*

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*requires greater flexibility through demand side participation. The Commission is therefore committed to act as a catalyst to encourage further private and public investments via a large number of instruments and legal framework for 2030. In addition to our efforts to improve the functioning of energy markets in providing incentives for investments, our strategy builds on better use of existing financial instruments such as the Connecting Europe Facility as well as on the European Fund for Strategic Investments that could unlock public and private investments in the real economy of at least an additional €315 billion over the next three years.*

*One of the fundamental objectives of EU energy policy is to ensure competitive energy markets. At the same time, energy policies can drive demand and growth in the low carbon economy and make our economy more resilient to energy costs through efficiency measures. The Commission is therefore convinced that the EU must maintain leadership in clean, renewable, and more energy-efficient technologies, products and services and must pursue ambitious yet realistic policies. A new Renewable Energy Package and the Governance scheme of the Energy Union will ensure delivery of the target for renewable energy of at least 27% by 2030, as set by the October 2014 European Council. The European Council also concluded that the minimum 27% energy efficiency target for 2030 should be reviewed by 2020 having in mind a 30% target.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*