



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion on the Reflection Paper on Harnessing Globalisation {COM(2017)240 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Poslanecká sněmovna's appreciation of the efforts made at EU level to address the opportunities and challenges of globalisation and shape it for the benefit of European citizens. The Commission also welcomes the acknowledgement of the efforts made at European Union level to modernise the economy, including through the promotion of investments in infrastructure, innovation and employment.

The Reflection Paper on Harnessing Globalisation refers to, among other things the role that robust social and education policies can play to protect and empower citizens as well as ensuring resilience and a fair distribution of wealth. The Commission takes note of the position of the Poslanecká sněmovna that the implementation of social policy should remain primarily within the competence of the Member States. The Commission would like to recall in this context that the Reflection Paper on Harnessing Globalisation stresses that the way Member States address social issues are very diverse. It does not suggest questioning the existing distribution of competences.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Jyrki Katainen
Vice-President*

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*cc Mr Jan HAMÁČEK
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