



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 3.7.2018
C(2018) 4169 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles {COM(2017) 653 final}.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát agrees with the reasons and objectives behind the revision of the current Directive and shares the view that the public sector should lead by example in the field of deployment of clean mobility. Constructive discussions about the scope and the level of ambition of the proposal have now started in the European Parliament and in the Council.

The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Senát in relation to different aspects of the proposal, and it is pleased to have this opportunity to provide a number of clarifications.

In particular, the Commission would like to stress that the proposal does not set mandatory targets for procurement of clean vehicles for individual contracting authorities: it rather sets national minimum procurement targets for each Member State and leaves it to the national authorities to decide how those targets will be reached by the different contracting authorities. The setting of minimum national targets in the Directive is necessary to ensure a consistent approach, provide clear market signals and certainty to investors, and accelerate the uptake of low- and zero-emission vehicles.

Furthermore, the Commission recalls that the proposal's definition of clean light-duty vehicle follows a technology-neutral approach based on tailpipe emission thresholds.

The Commission considers that expanding the scope of the Directive to cover transport services contracts is necessary to ensure a sufficient impact on the market.

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
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In relation to special-purpose vehicles, the Commission would like to point out that the proposal only applies to road transport vehicles subject to type-approval, and that the exemptions provided for in Article 2 of the current Directive are maintained in the proposal. The possible need for other exemptions has been raised during initial discussions in the Council and will be assessed during the negotiations.

The Senát's Opinion has been made available to the Commission representatives in the negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council and will inform these discussions.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission*