



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 10.10.2017*

*C(2017) 6869 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its opinion on the Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe.*

*The adoption of a White Paper on the Future of Europe marked the beginning of a process for the EU27 to decide on the future of their Union. The starting point for each of the scenarios in the White Paper is that the 27 Member States move forward together as a Union.*

*The current Treaties already allow for a multitude of forms of cooperation in groupings across all Member States, and therefore this possibility should not be presented or understood as something new undermining the EU's unity.*

*Regarding the EU's policy priorities, the Commission to a large extent shares the views of the Senát. Indeed many of these priorities have already been pursued by this Commission since taking office in 2014. The Commission has always striven to focus on clear benefits for EU citizens, and to concentrate EU action on areas in which the European Union, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, brings real added value ('big on big things, small on small things'). The priorities of the Senát are to a wide extent also similar to those of the Rome Agenda of March 2017.*

*In the same vein, making the European Union more democratic has been one of this Commission's ten priorities since taking office, and will continue to be so in the context of the ongoing discussions on the reform of the European Union. The Commission clearly respects the position of the European Council and maintains impartiality and an equal approach with regard to all Member States.*

*The White Paper on the Future of Europe has launched a wide-ranging debate with citizens. The Commission, together with the European Parliament and the Member States, is hosting a series of "Future of Europe Debates" across Europe's national Parliaments, cities and regions.*

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

*The Commission very much welcomes that the Senát is also taking itself the initiative to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe, and would wish to express its gratitude for the efforts made to promote the further development of the European Union.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*