



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 3.8.2018
C(2018) 5355 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking {COM(2018) 8 final}.

This initiative will allow the co-investment of the Union with Member States and associated countries to establish an integrated world-class supercomputing and data infrastructure and the further development of a full European High Performance Computing and Big Data ecosystem.

The initiative is a key element of the Commission's strategy for Digitising European industry. The Communication on 'High performance computing: Europe's place in a global race' {COM(2012) 45 final} highlighted the strategic nature of High Performance Computing as a crucial asset for the Union's innovation capacity. The Communication 'European Cloud Initiative – Building a competitive data and knowledge economy in Europe' {COM(2016) 178 final} highlighted the importance for Europe to have the High Performance Computing capacity to realise its potential and give Europe a lead in the global data-driven economy.

The Czech Republic is one of the signatories to the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking declaration, with which several Member States and associated countries agree to work with the Commission for acquiring and deploying by 2022/2023 a pan-European integrated exascale supercomputing infrastructure, and the development of European competitive High Performance Computing technology. On 10 May 2017, the Commission adopted a Mid-term review of the Digital Single Market strategy {COM(2017) 228 final}, announcing a procurement framework for an integrated pan-European exascale supercomputing and data infrastructure.

The Commission welcomes the proactive involvement of the Czech Republic in the initiative and its intention to become a founding Member of the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking.

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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The Joint Undertaking will support the European Union to become one of the world's top supercomputing powers. The initiative will provide European scientists, industry and the public sector with access to world-class supercomputers and associated services, giving them the tools to stay at the forefront of science and industrial competition. The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking will also support the development of the necessary technologies, applications and skills to foster European leadership in High Performance Computing systems and applications.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát shares the view that Europe's scientific capabilities, its competitiveness and self-sufficiency to a large degree depend on access to High Performance Computing and data infrastructures, and that the European High Performance Computing Undertaking Joint Undertaking will have an evident catalytic effect to ensure a pan-European access to such infrastructures and create mutual synergies for European scientists.

The Opinion of the Senát has been forwarded to the relevant Commission services. Following the recent adoption of the General Approach on the EuroHPC JU at the Environment Council on 25 June, and the positive vote of the European Parliament on the 3rd of July plenary, the Commission remains confident that the Council Regulation establishing the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking will be adopted by September 2018, which will allow the implementation to start in the second half of 2018.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senát in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Elżbieta Bienkowska

Member of the Commission