



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 9.10.2018
C(2018) 6562 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 on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law {COM(2018) 218 final}.

The Commission appreciates that the Senát shares the Commission's views as to the need for a framework for effective whistleblower protection at Union level as a means of strengthening enforcement of Union law. Precisely to ensure effective enforcement of Union law, the proposed Directive encompasses the broadest possible range of categories of persons who, by virtue of work-related activities, have privileged access to information about breaches of Union law that can cause serious harm to the public interest and who may suffer retaliation if they report such breaches.

The introduction of strong whistleblower protection rules at Union level would, amongst others, contribute to a better protection of the Union's financial interests and to ensuring the level-playing field needed for the single market to function properly and for businesses to operate in a fair competitive environment. Strong whistleblower protection at Union level also safeguards the right to freedom of expression and media freedom, enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Robust whistleblower protection would thus overall enrich the European Union toolkit for strengthening the correct application of Union law and respect for transparency, good governance, accountability and freedom of expression, which are values and rights on which the European Union is based.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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