



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 {COM(2018) 385}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's full support for the continuation of the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action in the next Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2027, as well as for its substantial budget increase.

The Commission believes that the simplification measures proposed are essential to introduce greater flexibility in order to respond to key and emerging issues as necessary. The Commission is of the opinion that it is more suitable to introduce specific information, such as the co-financing rates for grants, in the future multiannual work programmes and calls for proposals rather than in the Regulation itself. This will allow the targeting of each action to its specific objectives and beneficiaries.

The Commission takes note of the observations made by the Senát with regard to the role of the Committee for the programme. According to the Financial Regulation¹, the Commission adopts the multiannual work programme in the framework of its budget implementation power. The Commission would like to reassure the Senát that contributions from Member States and other stakeholders will be duly taken into account when drawing up such multiannual work programmes.

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012

The participation of third countries in Union programmes is possible if the basic act allows for that and under the conditions set out therein. This can include the possible eligibility of entities established in these countries to actions funded by the programme. It can also lead to the participation of representatives of the associated country in the governance of the programme, as well as to financial contribution to the programme in the form of assigned revenues. This participation shall be covered by an international agreement between the Union and the third country, following the procedure set out in Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*