



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.2.2019
C(2019)155 final*

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 establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 2018/1475 and Regulation (EU) No. 375/2014 {COM(2018) 440 final}.

The Commission welcomes the general support of the Senát for the proposed European Solidarity Corps post-2020. The proposal provides even more opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity activities by seeking a reinforced budget and by extending the scope of the European Solidarity Corps to solidarity activities in support of humanitarian aid operations taking place in non-European Union countries.

We would like to stress that ensuring the safety of participants in all actions of the European Solidarity Corps is a priority for the Commission. As for the humanitarian aid strand, volunteers will certainly not be deployed in disaster or conflict zones. They will not be "first responders", but will support humanitarian aid professionals in safe environments. The volunteers will receive specific training geared to the needs of supporting humanitarian aid operations. Furthermore, organisations offering placements will have to receive a quality label. Finally, the quality of implementation is closely monitored in cooperation with the National Authorities and the National Agencies.

The Commission is looking forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Jaroslav KUBERA,
President of the Senát
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