



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 18.1.2019  
C(2019) 56 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the 2018 Communication on the European Union Enlargement Policy {COM(2018) 450 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Senát to the European Union enlargement policy. The enlargement process continues to be built on established criteria and fair and rigorous conditionality. Each country is assessed on the basis of its own merits. The assessment of progress achieved and the identification of shortcomings aim to provide incentives and guidance to the countries to pursue the necessary far-reaching reforms.*

*For the prospect of enlargement to become a reality, a firm commitment to the principle of 'fundamentals first' remains essential. Accession candidates must deliver on the rule of law, justice reform, fight against corruption and organised crime, security, fundamental rights, democratic institutions and public administration reform, as well as on economic development and competitiveness.*

*The Commission remains fully committed to continue supporting the candidate countries and potential candidates in their reform efforts. The implementation of these reforms will allow them to progress on their European paths.*

*The Commission continues to engage with Turkey in the existing frameworks and it has called on Turkey, as a candidate country, to reverse the current negative trend in the rule of law and fundamental rights.*

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

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát of the Parliament of the Czech Republic for its engagement with the enlargement process and is looking forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Johannes Hahn  
Member of the Commission*