



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 20.2.2019  
C(2019) 1462 final*

*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 amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 as regards a verification procedure related to infringements of rules on the protection of personal data in the context of elections to the European Parliament {COM (2018) 636}. This proposal, together with the Recommendation on election cooperation networks, online transparency, protection against cybersecurity incidents and fighting disinformation campaigns in the context of elections to the European Parliament {C (2018) 5949 final} and the Guidance on the application of EU data protection rules in the context of elections {COM (2018) 638 final}, forms part of a package of measures announced by President Juncker in its State of the Union speech in September 2018, which aims to support free and fair European elections.*

*The Commission's proposal introduces the possibility for the Authority for the European political parties and foundations to financially sanction European political parties and foundations for infringements of data protection rules to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of European elections. The proposal also aims at strengthening the resources of the Authority for European political parties and foundations to enable its smooth and effective functioning.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senát's broad support for the aims of the proposal. Concerning the observation of the Senát that the proposed amount of sanction is too low, the Commission would like to point out that the aim of this targeted proposal is to add a new ground for imposing the financial sanctions already established by Regulation 1141/2014<sup>1</sup> and not to change the amounts of these sanctions. Moreover, any European political parties and foundations eventually subject to financial sanctions based on that new ground will be prevented from applying for funding from the general budget of the European Union in the year when the sanction was imposed.*

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of the European political parties and European political foundations, OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p.1.

*Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now well advanced and the Commission remains hopeful that the amended Regulation will enter into force before the European elections 2019.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply do address the issues raised by the Sénat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*