



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 04.08.2022
C(2022) 5770 final*

*Mr Miloš VYSTRČIL
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 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions ‘REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy’ {COM(2022) 108 final}.

The Commission takes note of the Senát’s support for its efforts to mitigate the impact of high energy prices on citizens and businesses, and in particular of the goal of gradually phasing out the EU’s dependence on Russian fossil fuels, while securing our energy security of supply. Achieving these goals will entail reinforced cooperation within the Union.

The Commission also takes note of the role the Senát sees for nuclear energy in the context of REPowerEU. The Commission fully respects the right of each Member State to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply, as established in Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, and within the legal framework set under the Euratom Treaty to meet the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation.

The REPowerEU Plan¹, presented on 18 May 2022, paves the way towards the EU’s energy independence from Russia, translating the REPowerEU Communication into actions. The Commission counts on the Senát’s support on the matters proposed in this second Communication to ensure a twofold goal: ending the EU’s dependence on Russian fossil fuels and tackling the climate crisis. In connection to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Russian gas supplies to the EU have been subject to repeated disruptions. The EU is today facing the prospect of a full and protracted disruption of gas from Russia at any moment. To prepare for it, the communication “Save gas for a safe winter”² sets out a European gas demand

¹ COM(2022) 230 final

² COM(2022) 360 final

reduction plan accompanied by a proposal³ for a Council Regulation enabling coordinated crisis preparation. On 26 July 2022, the Member States gave their political agreement to the regulation with the objective of 15% demand reduction in gas demand between a period of 1 August 2022 until 31 March 2023.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the concerns raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Adina-Ioana VĂLEAN
Member of the Commission*

³ COM(2022) 361 final