



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 20.3.2015  
C(2015) 1955 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assemblée nationale for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Communication "Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" {COM(2014) 130 final}.*

*The Commission shares some of the views expressed by the Assemblée nationale in its Opinion. In particular, as underlined in the Communication, awareness and ownership by all relevant actors is a key prerequisite for the successful delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.*

*In addition, the Commission agrees with the importance of a number of topics referred to in the Opinion of the Assemblée nationale. As mirrored in the political guidelines presented by President Juncker in July 2014 and in the light of the importance of fostering investment to strengthen and anchor the gradual recovery of European economies, the Commission presented a comprehensive package on jobs, growth and investment in November 2014. Achieving a European Energy Union is another important project that will be carried out by the Commission, and in that regard the Commission on 25 February adopted the package on the Framework Strategy for the Energy Union. Finally, the importance of the social dimension and of taking into consideration the social impact of policies is reflected in President Juncker's commitment to introduce social impact assessments before the implementation of any adjustment programme.*

*The Commission would also like to provide a number of clarifications. Regarding the references to fiscal consolidation versus growth-enhancing policies, the Commission would like to underline that over the last years and in the heights of the crisis, the Commission has constantly highlighted the importance of pursuing the mutually reinforcing objectives of fiscal consolidation and growth. Fiscal consolidation has never been an end in itself, but rather an imperative and a prerequisite for building solid foundations for growth and restoring confidence. In the context of the gradual recovery currently under way, the emphasis has gradually shifted from addressing the emergencies from the crisis to strengthening the ground for sustainable growth and employment.*

*Mr Claude BARTOLONE  
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*As regards the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy, in particular the social one referred to in the Opinion of the Assemblée nationale, the Commission would like to recall that the targets are not meant to be exhaustive but rather considered exemplary of the kind of dynamic change advocated in the strategy.*

*Finally, the Commission would like to underline that the Europe 2020 strategy is fully taken into account in the context of the European Semester. In particular, with the exception of the fiscal and financial ones, most of the country-specific recommendations addressed to the Member States touch upon areas covered by the Europe 2020 strategy and fully in line with its objectives.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Jyrki Katainen  
Vice-President*