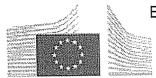
EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Brussels, 25.6 2013 C(2013) 3746 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission "Towards a comprehensive European framework for online gambling" {COM(2012) 596 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission very much welcomes the support to the initiatives proposed in the Communication.

With the series of initiatives to be adopted over the next two years the Commission is aiming at providing greater legal certainty in the regulation of online gambling, greater protection to European consumers and citizens and encouraging to that effect cooperation between Member States.

The Commission is now working on a thorough implementation of the Communication. The group of experts on gambling services, bringing together Member States' authorities regulating gambling services, has been set up and is closely involved in this work.

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

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič Vice-President

Mr Winfried KRETSCHMANN President of the Bundesrat Leipziger Strasse 3-4 D - 10117 BERLIN