



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Országgyűlés for its Opinion on the Commission Work Programme for 2015 {COM(2014) 910 final}. The views of national Parliaments constitute valuable contributions to the debate on the political priorities of the European Union and the Commission encourages national Parliaments to see the Work Programme as a strategic tool which allows for an early exchange on priorities.*

*The Commission would also like to thank the Országgyűlés for its support to the approach and priorities set out in the Work Programme, notably to provide a new boost for jobs, growth and investment.*

*As regards the various issues raised by the Országgyűlés in its Opinion, the Commission would like to make the following remarks:*

*On the Investment Plan for Europe the Commission recalls that it presented the proposal for a Regulation on the European Fund for Strategic Investments on 13 January 2015 with the aim of having the Fund operational by 1 July 2015. Energy is one of the priorities under the Investment Plan, as the European Fund for Strategic Investments is targeting investments in infrastructure, in particular energy interconnections, as well as in expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency.*

*The Energy Union package presented on 25 February 2015 aims at secure, affordable, competitive and sustainable energy for citizens and businesses. The decarbonisation of the economy and the EU contribution to the international climate negotiations are important elements, with further actions aimed at following up on the 2030 climate and energy package and updating the approach to research and innovation. As regards energy prices, the most effective measure to keep the energy bill down is the further integration of the energy market and the improvement of energy efficiency. The Energy Union Framework strategy stresses that the energy consumer has to be at the centre of all our efforts and that further measures have to be taken for consumers to benefit from new technologies and for their active participation in the market. In addition, particular attention has to be paid to those*

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*consumers who are particularly vulnerable. On-going work on all these elements will be further intensified in the context of the Energy Union process. The vision set out in the Energy Union strategy does not impact on the Member States' freedom to determine their energy mix, a right which is laid down in the Treaties.*

*As regards the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement, the Commission would like to stress that the agreement would make an important contribution to growth and jobs while safeguarding European standards. In that respect, EU legislation, including on GMOs, is not part of the negotiations. The Commission has taken several steps to enhance transparency in the TTIP negotiations, notably by publishing the negotiating texts on 7 January 2015. Furthermore, the Commission on 13 January 2015 published its analysis of the replies to the consultation on investment protection and investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS). The Commission is actively consulting stakeholders and involving the European Parliament and the Council throughout the process. Finally, the Commission will only be able to take a final view on the legal nature of the TTIP agreement after the text is finalised; however the Commission has already stated publicly that there are likely to be a number of elements in the agreement that would require ratification by national Parliaments.*

*The Commission is committed to driving the Better Regulation agenda forward, including by reinforcing the subsidiarity check of new initiatives as part of the impact assessment, and to work together with the other institutions to deliver a more efficient legislative process.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Cecilia MALMSTRÖM  
Member of the Commission*