



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.06.2018  
C(2018) 2335 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Országgyűlés for its Opinion concerning the Commission Work Programme for 2018 {COM(2017) 650 final}.*

*The Commission takes good note of the views expressed by the Országgyűlés and concurs with the Országgyűlés on the value of a direct dialogue between the Commission and the national Parliaments.*

*The Commission thanks the Országgyűlés for its support for the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing Less More Efficiently' and is pleased to inform that the Task Force has started its work, including with the active involvement of the three representatives from national Parliaments, and with the aim of reporting to President Juncker before the end of July 2018.*

*The Commission is presenting its proposals for a new Multiannual Financial Framework in May and June 2018. The reflection paper on the Future of EU finances, adopted by the Commission on 28 June 2017 {COM(2017) 358 final} states that: 'The design of the future EU budget must be underpinned by a clear vision of Europe's priorities and a determination to invest in the areas that will secure economic strength, sustainability, solidarity and security for the future'. The Commission emphasises that the principles of solidarity and non-discrimination of Member States are at the basis of the Union policies, including as regards their financing. The Cohesion policy is a concrete expression of solidarity with less economically developed parts of our Union.*

*Richárd HÖRCSIK  
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*cc László KÖVÉR  
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*The Commission takes note of the Opinion of the Országgyűlés on the security of Europe and Union citizens and would like to highlight the proposals presented in December 2017, which intend to establish a framework for the interoperability of EU information systems. These proposals aim to improve the management of external borders, helping to prevent and combat irregular migration and to foster a high level of security within the Union. Additionally, in October 2017, the Commission took a series of measures to assist law enforcement and judicial authorities when dealing with the use of encryption by criminals. In the same vein, the Commission undertook, in its thirteenth report on the security union, to add EUR 5 million to the budget allocated to Europol for 2018 to reinforce its capacity to decrypt information obtained legally in criminal investigations. The Commission further presented a legislative initiative on electronic evidence in April 2018 to facilitate law enforcement access to electronic evidence in other countries.*

*The Commission does not share the view that measures in the field of social, family affairs or labour policy which are necessary for tackling demographic challenges are the exclusive competence of Member States. Article 5(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union stipulates that the European Union shall take measures to ensure coordination of Member States' employment policies and Article 4(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union lists social policy among the areas of shared competence between the Union and Member States.*

*The Commission thanks the Országgyűlés for supporting the initiatives to get 'back to Schengen'. In view of the common commitment to return to Schengen as soon as possible and to move to a system that will ensure resilience to future migratory crises, the Commission established in December 2017 a roadmap towards a comprehensive migration package by June 2018. The proposed targeted amendments to the Schengen Borders Code intend to preserve the balance between the legitimate expectations of Member States related to internal security and the rights of the European Union citizens, and those of neighbouring Member States which are affected by such reintroduction or prolongation of border controls at internal borders. The proposal also contains a number of procedural safeguards to ensure that such controls remain an exception.*

*The Commission takes note of the Opinion of the Országgyűlés on the new Social Scoreboard, which was referred to in its Communication on Establishing a European Pillar of Social Rights {COM(2017) 250 final}. The Commission has drawn on this Scoreboard when preparing its proposal for the 2018 Joint Employment Report. In the view of the Commission, it is essential that work under the European Semester is based on indicators that help monitor progress in an objective and transparent way, and the indicators set out in the Scoreboard are suitable to achieve this objective.*

*Finally, the Commission thanks the Országgyűlés for its support for the development and stability of the Western Balkans. On 6 February, the Commission adopted the Communication 'A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans' {COM(2018) 65 final}, through which the Commission confirms that the firm and merit-based European perspective of the Western Balkans is in the Union's own political, security and economic interest, and on 17 April it adopted its enlargement package, including country reports on the Western Balkans.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*