



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Presidents, dear Chairmen,

The Commission would like to thank the 14 chambers that are signatories for their Opinion containing an overview of the chambers' priorities with regard to the initiatives in the Commission Work Programme for 2015 {COM(2014) 910 final}. As mentioned during the COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting in Luxemburg on 12-13 July 2015, the Commission welcomes the support of national Parliaments for the Commission's focus on a smaller number of initiatives that add value at the European level and is looking forward to further exchanges on future work programmes within the framework of the political dialogue.

The Commission appreciates the chambers' efforts to highlight key initiatives of common interest. In that regard the Commission encourages national Parliaments to see the Commission Work Programme as a strategic tool. The Commission has already received a number of individual opinions from national Parliaments which provide valuable contributions to the debate on the political priorities of the European Union. The overview table is a useful tool for the Commission to assess the respective positions of the chambers concerned and the support that some of the Commission's key proposals have gained.

*Ms Anouchka VAN MILTENBURG
President of the Tweede Kamer, Netherlands*

*Mr Yiannakis OMIROU
President of the Vouli ton Antiprosopon, Cyprus*

*Mr Jan HAMÁČEK
President of the Poslanecká sněmovna,
Czech Republic*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát, Czech Republic*

*Mr Josip LEKO
President of the Hrvatski sabor, Croatia*

*Mr László KÖVÉR
President of the Országgyűlés, Hungary*

*Ms Loreta GRAUŽINIENĖ
President of the Seimas, Lithuania*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica, Italy*

*Ms Ankie BROEKERS-KNOL
President of the Eerste Kamer, Netherlands*

*Mr Bogdan BORUSEWICZ
President of the Senat, Poland*

*Ms Maria da Assunção Andrade ESTEVES
President of the Assembleia da República,
Portugal*

*Mr Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA
President of the
Camera Deputaților, Romania*

*Mr Peter PELLEGRINI
President of the Národná Rada, Slovakia*

*The Lord BOSWELL of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Select Committee
House of Lords, United Kingdom*

The Commission is pleased to see that the Digital Single Market strategy is a priority for all chambers and the Commission intends to continue the work on the 16 initiatives to be delivered by the end of 2016 in the framework of this strategy. The Commission believes that completing the Digital Single Market could contribute € 415 billion per year to Europe's economy and that it would offer the possibility of opening up (digital) opportunities for people and businesses across Europe, thus enhancing Europe's position as a world leader in the digital economy.

The Commission welcomes the chambers' support for the Investment Plan for Europe which is now on track following the adoption of the Regulation on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) by the co-legislators on 25 June 2015¹. The Commission hopes that the EFSI will be operational and start financing projects after the summer break.

The Commission is also pleased to note the support for the Energy Union, the European Agenda for Migration as well as the Labour Mobility Package and the Trade and Investment Strategy for Jobs and Growth. The first two initiatives have already been adopted by the Commission, respectively on 25 February and 13 May (with a first set of concrete follow-up measures following on 27 May, for migration, and the follow-up proposals on the Energy Union, including the revisions of the Emissions Trading System and of the Energy Labelling Directive as well as Communications on Electricity Market Design and on Retail Markets "A New Deal for Energy Consumers", presented on 15 July 2015). Work is progressing on the other two initiatives. All of these instruments show the Commission's commitment to focusing on the most acute and relevant problems and to tackling them in an ambitious and global manner.

REFIT is an important part of the new and wide-ranging Better Regulation Package presented on 19 May 2015. The Commission is determined to make sure that the European Union focuses on the key issues and, when it acts, it does so in the most appropriate way. Better Regulation is a key tool to delivering on the policy goals that have been set while avoiding unnecessary burdens.

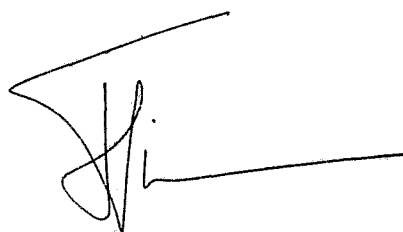
The Commission has put forward a comprehensive package of reforms covering the entire policy cycle with the aim of improving the quality of new laws through better impact assessments of draft legislation and amendments, and promoting reviews of existing EU laws, so that EU policies achieve their objectives in the most effective and efficient way. In order to increase openness and transparency in the EU decision-making process, stakeholders will

¹ Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) No 1291/2013 and (EU) No 1316/2013 — the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

have the opportunity to comment on planned initiatives throughout the entire policy lifecycle, from the initial Roadmap to the final Commission proposal.

Once again, the Commission would like to thank the 14 chambers for their efforts to put together their priorities as regards the Commission Work Programme and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line extending to the right.

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*