



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the Energy Union Package, including the Communication "A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy" {COM(2015) 80 final}, the Communication "The Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020" {COM(2015) 81} and the Communication "Achieving the 10% electricity interconnection target Making Europe's electricity grid fit for 2020" {COM(2015) 82}.

As Commissioner Arias Cañete stated in his address to the Italian Parliament on 25 June 2015, the Commission is pleased to note both Chamber's support for the five mutually reinforcing dimensions of the Energy Union which aim to address the three objectives of security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness. The Framework Strategy for the Energy Union builds inter alia on the agreement on the 2030 Framework for climate and energy reached in 2014 under the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Following the positive reactions from the European Council on 19 and 20 March 2015 and from the Energy Council on 8 June 2015, the Commission is now preparing the implementing initiatives announced in the Energy Union Roadmap. To succeed in our strategy, deeper integration, cooperation and coordination between Member States and the EU institutions will be needed.

In line with the Camera dei Deputati's Opinion, the Commission is fully committed to achieving an ambitious climate agreement at the COP 21 in Paris. In this vein, the Environment Council on 18 September 2015 set out the EU position for the Paris Climate Conference. The Council conclusions support a Paris Agreement including a clearly defined long term goal that keeps the increase in the global average temperature below 2°C, and a dynamic approach to address any initial shortfall in efforts needed.

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The Commission agrees with the Camera dei Deputati on its call for a revision of the European Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS). An agreement was already reached on the introduction of a Market Stability Reserve, which will strengthen the EU ETS. Additionally, as the first step in delivering on the EU's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% domestically by 2030, the Commission presented in July 2015 a legislative proposal to revise the EU ETS for the period after 2020.

It is the EU's goal to maintain leadership in clean and efficient energy technologies, products and services and to pursue ambitious yet realistic policies. Such policies can sustain demand and growth in the low carbon economy and make our economy more resilient to potential rises in energy costs through efficiency measures. Those important aspects will be covered by several initiatives planned for the second semester of 2016, dedicated to energy efficiency and renewables. Moreover, in line with the Energy Union roadmap, the integrated Strategic Energy Technology Plan will be supplemented by the Strategic Transport Research and Innovation Agenda and the Global Technology and Innovation Leadership Initiative, which will all come together in a comprehensive Energy Union research, innovation and competitiveness strategy, to be presented together with next year's State of the Energy Union.

The Commission supports the call made by the Camera dei Deputati for a revision of the Italian Energy Strategy, to be in line with the broader objectives of the Energy Union. The Commission is currently developing the governance of the Energy Union that aims to support Member States in the definition of integrated national energy and climate plans while ensuring delivery of the five dimensions of the Energy Union, including the 2030 EU-level targets for renewable energy and for energy efficiency.

The Commission agrees that the further development of the internal energy market is a priority. In this vein, the EU is working to put in place a regulatory framework to complete the creation of an open, integrated and competitive single market for energy. In July 2015 the Commission launched a public consultation on a redesign of the European electricity market and presented a Communication on how to deliver a new deal for energy consumers. These initiatives represent a first important step in the direction of a fully integrated market and will be followed by more concrete proposals to improve the current legal framework in 2016.

The Commission fully agrees with the Camera dei Deputati on the need to emphasise the external dimension of energy policies, including via a deeper involvement of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The EU will further strengthen its dialogues with key partners, including with regard to creating a Mediterranean gas hub in the south of Europe. With regard to energy infrastructure, the European Energy Security Strategy already recognised the role of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) as a key infrastructure that will increase security and diversity of energy

supply in Europe. Finally, the Commission counts on Italy's commitment to the establishment of three Mediterranean Platforms focusing on i) gas; ii) regional integration of electricity markets and iii) renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*