



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Ms Maria Elisabetta ALBERTI CASELLATI
President of the
Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
IT – 00186 ROMA*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion, set out in the Resolution of the Standing Committee Territorio, ambiente, beni ambientali and in the Resolution of the Standing Committee Politiche dell'Unione europea, on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law) {COM(2020) 80 final} as amended on 17 September 2020 {COM(2020) 563 final}.

This amended proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious actions announced in the Commission's European Green Deal Communication¹. The European Green Deal launches a new growth strategy for the EU. It aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive. The European Green Deal Communication reaffirms the Commission's ambition to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

With its proposal for a European Climate Law, the Commission proposes to enshrine the 2050 climate-neutrality objective in legislation, to set the long-term direction, to provide predictability for investors, and to ensure transparency and accountability. The Commission also proposes that the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target for 2030 is increased to at least 55% compared with 1990 levels, including emissions and removals. In December 2020, the European Council endorsed this target and gave guidance on its implementation. The Commission is preparing detailed proposals on how to achieve this target. The Commission is reviewing, and will propose to revise where necessary, by June 2021 all relevant policy instruments to achieve the additional

¹ COM(2019) 640 final.

emission reductions. To this end, the Commission is carrying out impact assessments and public consultations so that the various options and policies are analysed, such as those presented in the Opinion of the Senato della Repubblica.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senato della Repubblica for the European Union's aim to be climate neutral by 2050, action on adaptation to climate change and increasing the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target to at least 55% while respecting fairness and solidarity.

The Commission takes note of the Senato della Repubblica's views on important issues set out in its Opinion, such as increasing removals of greenhouse gases, the importance of forests, natural wells, healthy soils, the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy, citizen involvement, sustainable mobility, incentives and support for businesses, launching actions recommended by the European Hydrogen Strategy, and education and training.

The Commission agrees that a set of deeply transformative policies is needed to deliver the European Green Deal. The European Green Deal will make consistent use of all policy levers. The Commission notes that the proposal for the European Climate Law also aims to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and that a fixed long-term objective is crucial in this regard. All EU actions and policies should pull together to help the EU achieve a successful and just transition towards climate neutrality and a sustainable future.

The Commission also welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's conclusion that the proposal complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission, which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senato della Repubblica in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*