



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Seimas for its Opinion on the “2020 Strategic Foresight Report. Strategic Foresight – charting the course towards a more resilient Europe” {COM(2020) 493 final}.

The Commission shares the view that in the face of the unforeseen changes across the world, it is essential for the EU to be better prepared to timely assess the changing trends and plan solutions to potential problems. In this context, strategic foresight helps to improve policy design, develop future-proof strategies and ensure that short-term actions are coherent with long-term objectives. To draw on a clear understanding of future trends and emerging issues for major initiatives, the Commission integrates foresight elements into the Better Regulation Agenda, in impact assessments and evaluations.

Regarding the work on resilience dashboards announced in the 2020 Strategic Foresight Report, where four early prototypes were presented, the Commission would like to underline that existing monitoring tools largely aim to assess progress towards specific and often sectoral sets of policy targets both on the EU level and in Member States. Instead, the new resilience dashboards will provide a holistic and multidisciplinary picture of resilience, understood as the ability not only to withstand and cope with challenges but also to undergo transitions in a sustainable, fair, and democratic manner. In other words, they aim to guide Member States in assessing their capacities and vulnerabilities, respectively underpinning and potentially hindering their ability to make progress towards policy targets. This will avoid any overlap and ensure virtuous synergies.

The objective is to design the resilience dashboards using strategic foresight and in cooperation with Member States and other key stakeholders. They are composed of a set of indicators from publicly available data sources, and as such do not create additional bureaucratic burden on Member States. Since the publication of the 2020 Strategic

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Foresight Report, the Commission has substantially developed and improved the draft dashboards, in consultation with Member States and experts.

Finally, I would like to underline that cooperation with Member States is an important element of developing a common European strategic foresight agenda. In this context, I am pleased to inform you that the EU-wide Foresight Network announced in the 2020 Report met for the first time on the ministerial level on 17 May. Its objective is to develop a partnership that draws on public administration foresight capabilities, by bringing together intelligence and foresight expertise from all Member States and the Commission for strategic exchanges and cooperation on forward-looking issues relevant to Europe. On the Lithuanian side, Mr Arnoldas Pranckevičius, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, is participating in the work of “the Ministers for the Future”.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Seimas in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*