



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.3.2021
C(2021) 1491 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Seimas for its opinion on the Commission work programme for 2021 - “A Union of vitality in a world of fragility” {COM(2020) 690 final}.

It welcomes that the Seimas considers its priorities to be well reflected in this 2021 work programme, and appreciates the continued support of the Seimas for the delivery on the six headline ambitions of the Political Guidelines. As noted by the Seimas, the initiatives listed in the work programme aim at responding to the COVID-19 context, both in terms of recovery as well as strengthening our long-term resilience. At the same time, this crisis also provides us with the opportunity to accelerate the green and digital transitions, given its many challenges to the EU’s societies and economies.

The Commission takes note of the Seimas’ assessment as regards our policy on the Eastern Partnership. The Commission and the High Representative adopted in April 2020 a Joint Communication “Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 - Reinforcing Resilience - an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all” providing for a comprehensive way forward for EU’s engagement with Eastern partners. Taking into account the Joint Communication, the Council adopted in May 2020 conclusions on the Eastern Partnership. At the 18 June 2020 Leaders’ videoconference, the EU Member States and the six Eastern partners agreed to hold a physical Eastern Partnership Summit in 2021 with a view to endorsing the Eastern Partnership policy priorities post-2020, including a new set of deliverables. The Commission is preparing a Staff Working Document with concrete actions implementing the priorities identified in the Joint Communication of April 2020.

The Commission looks forward to the involvement of the Seimas with the above topics and to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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