



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 30.7.2018  
C(2018) 5188 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Seimas for its Opinion on the financing of the European Neighbourhood Policy in the new Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union (2021-2027).*

*Following the 2 May 2018 proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, entitled 'A modern budget for a Union that Protects, Empowers and Defends' {COM(2018) 321 final}, the Commission presented on 14 June 2018 the legislative proposal for the establishment of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument. The proposal is the result of an ambitious plan to streamline the external action architecture and render the financing instruments more flexible, more coherent and more effective.*

*The European Neighbourhood Policy is identified as a top priority for the European Union's external action and will continue to have a very prominent place in the architecture. The Neighbourhood will benefit from a substantial increase in the funding with a ring-fenced envelope of EUR 22 billion, representing a 24% increase from the current funding in current prices.*

*The Neighbourhood partners should also be prime beneficiaries of the 'Emerging Challenges and Priorities cushion', a flexibility cushion of EUR 10.2 billion reserve for flexible responses to evolving crises, such as Ukraine or Syria, as well as to unexpected security issues or migratory pressures.*

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*At the same time, all the specificities of the cooperation with Neighbourhood have been preserved in a dedicated chapter of the regulation. This includes a strong focus on performance with 10% of the envelope of the Neighbourhood reserved to reward progress towards rule of law, democracy, economic governance and reforms as well as cooperation on migration and mobility, a differentiated approach to country allocations and the continuation of Cross-Border Cooperation.*

*The Commission is confident that the substantial increase in funding, more flexibility and a stronger focus on stabilisation will all strengthen the Union's impact in the crucial neighbourhood regions.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Seimas and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska  
Member of the Commission*