



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 10.04.2014  
C(2014) 2283 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants {COM(2013) 919 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Opinion, in particular its support for the efforts aimed at limiting air pollution.*

*Regarding the concerns that emission requirements are too restrictive, in particular for existing coal-fired combustion plants, the Commission confirms that the limit values set in the proposal are technologically feasible and have been set after careful analysis of existing Member State legislation. Furthermore, specific dates have been set for operators to comply with the emission limit values, which are differentiated for new and existing plants with more time given for compliance by the smaller category of plants.*

*With regard to the concerns expressed in relation to the benchmark values to be applied in zones not complying with air quality standards, the Commission highlights that this proposal is designed to protect citizens' health from the effects of poor air quality at the lowest cost. On the one hand, given their nature, the benchmark values have to be set at a level that addresses situations of poor air quality effectively. On the other hand, they do not need to be applied where it is demonstrated that this would entail disproportionate costs and other measures ensuring compliance with the air quality limit values have been included in the air quality plans required under EU law.*

*Concerning the suggestion that less strict requirements should be applied for smaller plants, the Commission would like to draw attention to the information provided in the Impact Assessment supporting the proposal. This shows that the financial burden for small enterprises to achieve compliance is highest when they operate bigger plants. To avoid increasing further the burden for enterprises in such situations, the Commission has proposed the same limit values for all plants rather than proposing stricter limit values for the bigger ones.*

*Mr Bogdan BORUSEWICZ  
President of the Senat  
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*Concerning the period of transposition, the Commission confirms that a period of 18 months is in line with normal practice.*

*The Commission hopes that the above clarifications address the comments and concerns raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*