



*Brussels, 26.3.2015
C(2015) 2069 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Sejm for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Communication on the European Energy Security Strategy of 28 May 2014 {COM(2014) 330 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Sejm's general support to the Communication. In that regard the Commission is already working with the Council and the Member States' Governments in putting the Strategy into effect, in particular as regards the Stress Tests exercise. The Commission would also like to refer to its Communication on the Framework Strategy on the Energy Union {COM(2015) 80 final}. The Energy Union is based on the three long-established objectives of EU energy policy: security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness. To reach these objectives, the Energy Union focuses on five mutually supportive dimensions: Energy security, solidarity and trust; the internal energy market; energy efficiency as a contribution to the moderation of energy demand; decarbonisation of the economy; and research, innovation and competitiveness.

As regards the question of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), the Commission takes note of the Sejm's support to the Polish Government's opposition against tying new coal fired power plants to the construction of CCS facilities. In view of the significant CO₂ emissions of coal power plants, the Commission on the one hand supports the use of clean coal technologies provided they are in line with the long term decarbonisation objectives, and on the other hand emphasises the need for the development and timely deployment of CCS technologies.

As regards public aid to clean coal technologies and nuclear energy, the Commission takes note of the Sejm's support to the Polish Government's position on this matter, but would like to point out that any support schemes need to be in line with EU Guidelines on State Aid on environmental protection and energy as well as with the underlying Treaty provisions.

As regards the exploitation of unconventional natural gas sources in the EU, the Commission acknowledges the potential contribution of the sustainable production of competitive fossil

*Mr Radoslaw SIKORSKI
Marshal of the Sejm
Ul. Wiejska 4/6
PL – 00-902 WARSAW*

fuels to the EU's energy security. Therefore the European Energy Security Strategy calls on Member States to stream-line national administrative procedures for hydrocarbon projects, including by carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessments and setting up one-stop-shops for permitting procedures with the aim of reducing administrative burden while ensuring that the highest environmental standards are implemented.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*