



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 10.7.2017  
C(2017)4894 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Sejm for its Opinion on national integrated energy and climate plans – a new tool for the European Union climate and energy policy, which relates to the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union {COM(2016) 759 final} and its Communication on Clean Energy for all Europeans {COM(2016) 860 final}.*

*The Governance proposal is part of the "Clean Energy for All Europeans" package, adopted by the Commission in order to establish a stable and forward-looking regulatory framework for the upcoming energy challenges. The measures included in the package focus on the following three main objectives: energy efficiency first, achievement of a global leadership in renewable energies and a fair deal for consumers.*

*The proposal for a Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union provides an unprecedented opportunity to have comparable, comprehensive and integrated national plans for the Member States' achievement of the Energy Union objectives, but at the same time ensures that Member States retain significant flexibility to take account of specific national circumstances and preferences in their implementation. It is designed to ensure the necessary certainty for investors as well as transparency and predictability as far as national policies and measures are concerned, which would be beneficial for jobs and growth in the energy sector.*

*Ms Izabela KLOC  
Chair of the European Union  
Affairs Committee of the Sejm  
UL. Wiejska 4/6  
PL – 00-902 WARSAW*

*cc. Mr Marek KUCHCIŃSKI  
Marshal of the Sejm  
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*With regard to the concerns raised in the Opinion, the Commission would like to reassure the Sejm that subsidiarity is one of the fundamental considerations behind the proposed approach to Governance, with the Member States themselves establishing the national plans and the objectives and measures set out therein. Furthermore, the iterative process between the Member States and the Commission in order to complement the national process is based on Commission recommendations that will ensure proportionality and full respect of the Member States' rights and prerogatives under the Treaties, including with regard to the choice between various energy sources.*

*Moreover, the Commission agrees on the importance which the Sejm attaches to energy security, a key objective of the Energy Union that is also enshrined in the proposal on the Governance of the Energy Union. The security of supply dimension will form an integral part of the integrated national energy and climate plans and subsequent progress reports.*

*With regard to the Sejm's concerns on regional consultations and cooperation, the Commission would like to emphasise that the objectives of security, sustainability and competitiveness cannot be achieved in a cost-effective manner unless Member States cooperate more closely with one another and give greater consideration to the cross-border effects of national policies. Such cooperation can indeed involve more than two Member States.*

*As regards the Sejm's comments on the Communication on Clean Energy for all Europeans, the Commission takes note of the call for a more detailed assessment of impacts from the proposed measures on employment in Polish coal mines. The Commission fully agrees with the Sejm on the importance of ensuring a fair energy transition also in regions dependent on coal, and is committed to examining how to better support the transition in coal and carbon-intensive regions.*

*The points made above with regard to the proposal for a Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union are based on the initial proposal adopted by the Commission, which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

*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*