

Opinion No 29
of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland
on New Initiatives of the European Commission for 2018
adopted at the 181th meeting on 25 January 2018

The European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland examined the *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: European Commission Work Programme 2018. An agenda for a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe* (COM(2017) 650 final) as well as the position of the government.

With regard to the European Commission Work Programme 2018, the European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland formulates the following remarks concerning individual selected initiatives set out in the European Commission Work Programme 2018:

- *Multiannual Financial Framework – within the area “A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment”*. The European Union Affairs Committee points to the necessity to ensure that all arrangements are made in compliance with the principle of solidarity and non-discrimination of Member States;
- *Strengthening the social dimension of the EU*. The European Union Affairs Committee calls for proposed legislative acts in this area not to restrict the functioning of the single market and in particular not to decrease competitiveness of companies from Central and Eastern Europe.
- *Completing the Digital Single Market – within the area “A Connected Digital Single Market”*. The European Union Affairs Committee takes note of the engagement of the European Commission in this area and considers that further work should be intensive so that the Digital Single Market materialises in the nearest possible future.
- *Completing the Energy Union; Future of EU energy and climate policy – within the area “A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy”*. The European Union Affairs Committee considers that work on the Energy Union should ensure striking a balance between the area of energy security and the area of energy efficiency. The European Union Affairs Committee also draws attention to the necessity of taking into account the rights of Member States to decide on their own energy mix, respecting the fundamental competences of Member States to take action to ensure electric power energy supply security without discriminating coal sources that form the basis of Polish energy security, and taking into account the importance of the Polish energy sector for further durable and sustainable development of Poland and maintaining its competitiveness.
- *Delivering on the Trade for All Strategy – within the area “Trade: A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation”*; the European Union Affairs Committee supports the development of trade with third countries, on condition, however, of taking into account the agricultural sector and other

sensitive sectors and ensuring that arrangements under new trade agreements treat fairly the economic interests of all Member States.

- *“Europe on the Move” package, “Connecting Europe” initiative and the European Fund for Strategic Investments.* The European Union Affairs Committee draws attention to the necessity of taking into account the issue of transport infrastructure in Central European countries, the necessity to develop modern rail passenger transport based on high-speed rail along the North-South axis, support for the European road investment project Via Carpathia and the necessity to include these infrastructure investment projects in the Multiannual Financial Framework;

- *Completing the Security Union – An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust.* The European Union Affairs Committee considers essential that Member States should retain the freedom to shape their own industrial policy in the area of defence.

- *Delivering on the EU Agenda on Migration – within the area “Towards a New Policy on Migration”.* The European Union Affairs Committee considers it is important to conduct a consistent policy aimed at eliminating illegal and irregular migration and to achieve full protection of the borders of the European Union. At the same time the Committee consistently expresses its opposition to the introduction of an automatic mechanism of refugee relocation.

- *More efficiency and consistency in implementing the Common Foreign Policy – within the area “A Stronger Global Actor”.* The European Union Affairs Committee considers it is important to maintain the sanctions imposed on Russia in connection with the annexation of Crimea.

- *Doing less more efficiently – within the area “A Union of Democratic Change”.* The European Union Affairs Committee considers it is necessary to develop solutions in the area “A Union of Democratic Change” that will strengthen the role of national parliaments, and to indicate how such solutions should be implemented.

The European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland states that it will submit the adopted opinion, in the scope of so-called political dialogue, to the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Parliament and to the Bulgarian Presidency.

Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee

/-/ Izabela Kloc