



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát and the Poslanecká sněmovna for the joint resolution on the European Energy Union, submitted on behalf of the Committees on Economic Affairs of the Visegrad 4 countries' parliaments.

The Commission is grateful for the parliaments' support for creating a resilient Energy Union and would like to make the following clarifications regarding its proposals and their implementation to allay the concerns raised.

The Commission agrees that the completion of the internal energy market is vital for Europe's energy security, for more competitive prices as well as for achieving the energy and climate targets the European Union has committed to. Building further on the call made by the European Council in October 2014, the Commission has already made considerable progress towards the implementation and further development of vital pieces of infrastructure such as the LitPolLink in electricity, the gas interconnector between Poland and Lithuania and the interconnector between Hungary and Slovakia. Later this year, the Commission will present a consultative Communication on the progress towards the completion of the list of the most vital energy infrastructure projects and on the necessary measures to reach the 15% electricity interconnection target for 2030.

The Commission acknowledges the need for further efforts to complete the internal energy market. Diversification of energy sources, suppliers and routes is crucial for ensuring secure and resilient supplies to European households and companies. In this context the Commission will ensure that all infrastructure projects, including Nord Stream 2, fully comply with EU legislation and that the EU will only support infrastructure projects which are in line with the core principles of the Energy Union.

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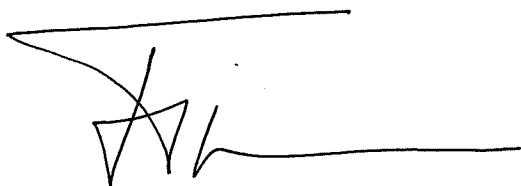
Completing the Internal Energy Market will represent the most cost-effective way to ensure secure and affordable energy supplies in the EU. The Commission will present a report on energy prices and costs before the summer to provide a detailed breakdown of prices for gas, electricity and oil products and also look at price differentials between the EU and third countries. In view of addressing emerging and future market challenges, the Commission will moreover submit legislative proposals before the end of 2016 to redesign the electricity market; linking wholesale and retail markets and ensuring that appropriate governance arrangements of the market are in place.

The Commission agrees that legal certainty and stability are important factors in order to preserve the successful deployment of renewables in the Member States. This is why one of the main objectives of the governance of the Energy Union is to provide long-term predictability and certainty for investment and ensure greater cooperation and coherence among Member States' approaches on climate and energy policies. The Commission will present a legislative proposal on the governance of the Energy Union as well as proposal for a revised renewables directive before the end of 2016.

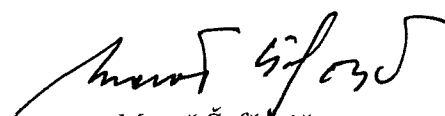
The Commission recognises that the way reforms of national support schemes are carried out may considerably affect investor certainty, for example by changing tariff levels and the choice of technology. In order to tackle this issue, the Commission in 2013 came forward with guidance for the design of renewables support schemes. The Commission also recalls that support to renewables must be in line with the Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy 2014–2020.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised in the joint resolution and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,



*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*



*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*