



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.1.2012
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Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank you for the opinion of the Senate of Romania prepared in response to the Green Paper from the Commission on a Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding {COM(2011) 48}.

The Commission welcomes your contribution, and would like to thank the Senate in particular for its support to the concept of the Common Strategic Framework, and for its detailed comments on the questions from the Green Paper. The Commission strongly believes that the involvement of the national Parliaments is of crucial importance for the modernisation of the EU research and innovation funding, and is looking forward to further constructive exchanges on this important topic.

The Commission has taken account of the comments received during the Green Paper consultation to prepare the best possible legislative proposals for Horizon 2020, which has been adopted by the Commission on 30 November and submitted to the Council and European Parliament.

As described in the Commission Communication on the next Multiannual Financial Framework ('A Budget for Europe 2020') {COM(2011) 500}, Horizon 2020 will be structured around three distinct, but mutually reinforcing blocks, in line with Europe 2020 priorities: the first block 'Excellent science base' will strengthen the EU's world-class excellence in science. The second block 'Industrial leadership and competitive frameworks' will support business research and innovation. The third block 'Tackling societal challenges' will respond directly to challenges, identified in Europe 2020. The implementation of the programme will be simplified and standardised, with simplification covering both funding schemes and rules.

We appreciate your continued support and constructive engagement in this important matter. The Commission looks forward to deepening the political dialogue with the Romanian Senate.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Petru FILIP
President of the Senate
Calea 13 Septembrie, Nr 1-3
Intrarea A1, sector 5
RO - BUCHAREST*