



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.7.2012  
C(2012) 5083 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senatul for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 {COM(2011) 612 final} and apologizes for the delay in replying.*

*As regards the Cohesion Fund and the Connecting Europe Facility, both proposals have to be seen in conjunction with each other. The Commission's view is that cohesion policy would remain the largest contributor to transport infrastructure in the EU budget and maintain a broad scope of interventions in order to maximise regional development effects through transport investments. As a complement, the Connecting Europe Facility would concentrate on projects of highest European value added such as cross border infrastructure, removing of bottlenecks and deploying of intelligent traffic management systems.*

*As for the transfer of the EUR 10 billion from Cohesion Fund allocations of Member States to the Connecting Europe Facility, in the ongoing negotiations between co-legislators, the Commission has proposed that Member States' allocations were reduced on a pro-rata basis. For the use of the EUR 10 billion under the Connecting Europe Facility, the greatest possible priority should be given to projects respecting the national allocations under the Cohesion Fund. This would be achieved by dedicated calls for projects in countries eligible for the Cohesion Fund. Moreover, the Commission has identified, in the Annex to the proposed Connecting Europe Facility Regulation, a list of projects towards which 80% to 85% of the Connecting Europe Facility funds would be directed.*

*Romanian projects are well represented in this list. This should ensure that Romania receives a fair share of the EUR 10 billion made available for the Cohesion Fund eligible Member States within the Connecting Europe Facility. In addition, the Commission would provide support to Romania and the other Cohesion Member States to develop quality projects to maturation, in order to ensure the successful absorption of the Connecting Europe Facility funds and, as a consequence, Romania's adequate connection into the TEN-T network. Should any uncommitted funds remain at the end of the multiannual financial period, however, these funds would be returned to the EU budget.*

*Mr. Filip PETRU  
President of the Senate  
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*I hope that these clarifications address the the concerns expressed by the Senatul and look forward to continuing our political dialogue on the future of cohesion policy.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*