

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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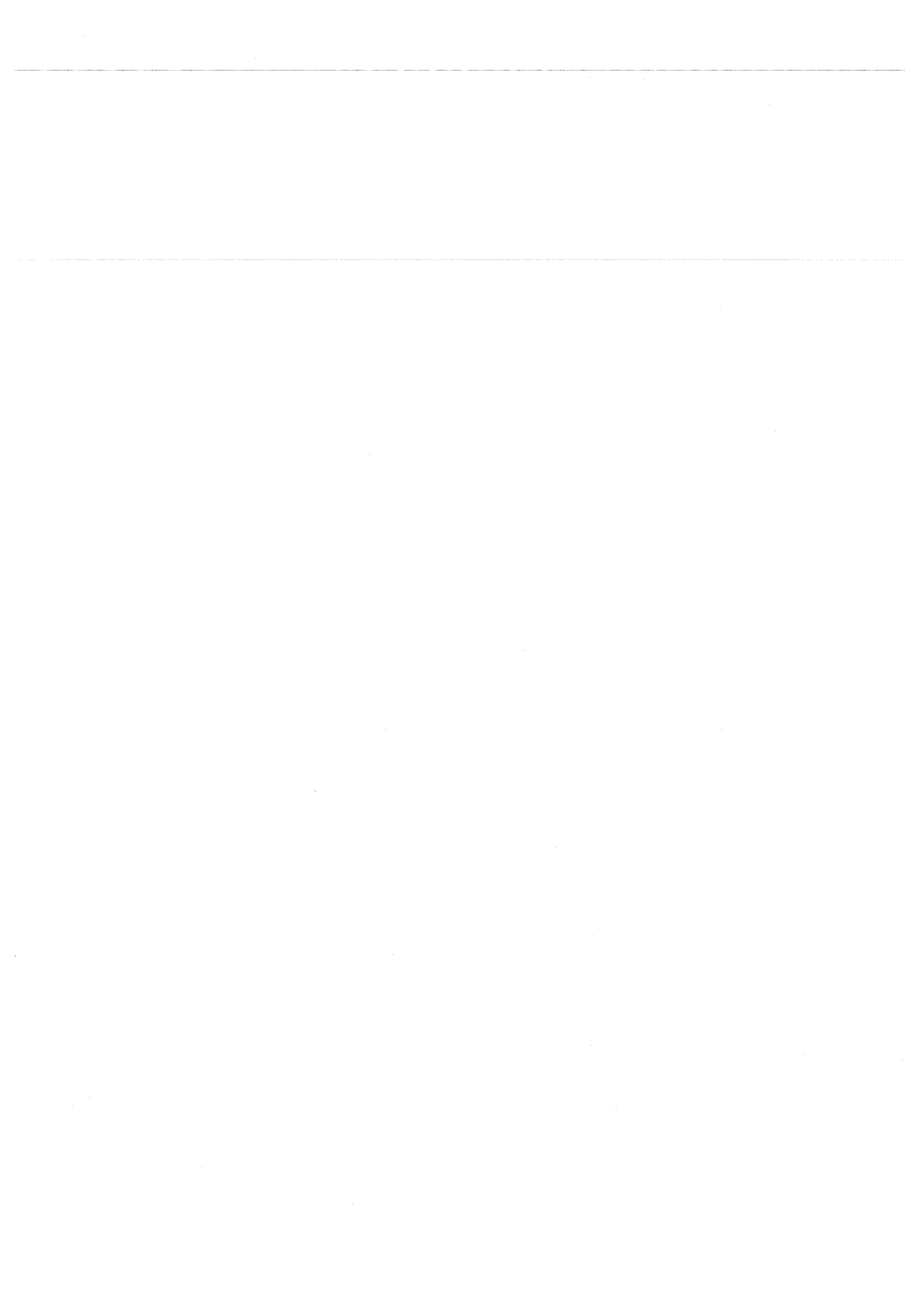
Dear President,

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Internal Energy Market {COM(2012) 663 final} and apologises for the delay in replying. The Commission welcomes the recognition of the Camera Deputaților that the internal energy market is a key instrument in delivering economic growth and jobs to EU citizens and appreciates the acknowledgement of the advantages of integrated European energy markets, the need to improve capacity mechanisms and empower consumers.*

*The Commission recognizes the crucial role of small and medium-sized enterprises in achieving an ever more integrated European energy market and would like to assure you that their interests both as energy consumers as well as energy producers remain high on the Commission's agenda. As for the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), the Commission is well aware of the current problems. In the short run the Commission has proposed back-loading and continues to support that option. Furthermore, in order to develop a longer-term strategy, also with regard to the ETS, the Commission has launched a Green Paper on a framework for climate and energy policy for 2030. The Commission is also working on revised guidelines on State aid for environmental protection that aim at reducing distortions in competition and removing environmentally harmful subsidies. Please remain assured that the Roadmap 2050, its environmental strategy and plans and the policies on climate change will be duly taken into account in this review process.*

*Further, the Commission emphasizes its commitment to implement agricultural, energy and environmental policies at the EU level in an increasingly integrated way. As regards the need for a coherent support strategy to ensure the functionality of certain regional markets, the Commission continues to promote regional initiatives and is committed to providing assistance. To that effect, the Commission services are working closely together with the national regulators and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. Finally, the Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților that energy consumption needs to be decoupled from economic growth. The Energy*

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*Efficiency Directive has been adopted to ensure that less energy is wasted throughout the Union. It now needs implementation and application in practice.*

*The Commission hopes that this reply addresses the issues raised in the Opinion of the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

[ ]  
*Vice-President/Member of the Commission*

