



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,  
C(2013)

final

Mr Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA  
President of the  
Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – BUCHAREST

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Communication "Preparing for the 2014 European elections: further enhancing their democratic and efficient conduct" {COM(2013) 126 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission welcomes the Opinion, which positively assesses and supports the objectives announced in the Communication, notably to reinforce legitimacy of the EU decision-making process, to strengthen the link between EU citizens and the democratic process of the Union and ultimately, to foster a European public space. A Recommendation<sup>1</sup>, adopted together with the Communication, has called on Member States, on European and on national political parties to take concrete measures in view of these objectives.

By recommending to Member States and to political parties to ensure that citizens are informed of the links between national and European political parties, the Commission aims at enhancing the transparency of the European elections and at offering citizens a choice between meaningful political options on European issues. The recommendation for European political parties and national political parties to announce the candidate they support for the function of President of the Commission will contribute to strengthening the legitimacy of both Parliament and Commission. A common day for elections to the European Parliament should reinforce the general perception that European elections are a common endeavour.

The Commission welcomed the recent resolution of the European Parliament on improving the practical arrangements for the holding of the European elections in 2014<sup>2</sup>, which stressed the need of an electoral campaign based on European party platforms and programmes, and insisted that political parties at all levels should adopt democratic and transparent procedures selecting the candidates for the Commission presidency.

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<sup>1</sup> C (2013) 1303 final

<sup>2</sup> P7\_TA-PROV(2013)0323

*The Commission is fully aware of the importance of further efforts to inform citizens about their EU rights and the connections between political processes at national and EU level. In its recently adopted EU Citizenship report 2013 "EU citizens: your rights, your future"<sup>3</sup>, the Commission announced that it would further promote EU citizens' awareness of their EU citizenship rights, and in particular their electoral rights, by producing and promoting the dissemination of a handbook presenting these EU rights in clear and simple language (action 12).*

*As underlined in the Opinion, further measures have been taken with a view to streamline procedures linked to the implementation of EU citizens' electoral rights: it was made less burdensome for Union citizens to participate as candidates in the European elections, notably through new arrangements laid down in Directive 2013/1/EU; the burden on the national administrations linked to the implementation of these rights has also been addressed through the above Recommendation of the Commission.*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for the information provided on measures that are currently being taken at national level with a view to transposing Directive 2013/1/EU and to giving effect to the Commission's recommendations on the European Parliament elections and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

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<sup>3</sup> COM (2013) 269 final