



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.10.2013  
C(2013) 5719 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion concerning the Consultative Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020 {COM (2013) 167 final}.*

*This Consultative Communication aimed at initiating a debate with EU Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders on the design of the new international climate Agreement that should be agreed by 2015 in the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. A stakeholder conference was organised in Brussels on 17 April 2013, and an online public consultation via the Commission web portal was carried out between 26 March and 26 June 2013.*

*In that context, the Commission welcomes the Opinion of the Senat. The Commission will carefully analyse the various contributions received from stakeholders, as an important input for the further development of the EU's position in the international negotiations.*

*A key assumption of the work on the 2015 Agreement is that it shall be "applicable to all". This assumption, agreed by all parties at the Durban conference in 2011, which launched the negotiations on the new agreement, implies that all parties, and in particular all major economies, shall agree on adequate mitigation commitments, which will need to reflect today's and tomorrow's realities and capabilities in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. This will be crucial to secure an agreement allowing for the below 2°C objective to be achieved, and that will also be fair and ensure a level playing field, thereby securing its climate objective while keeping in mind the competitiveness dimension.*

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*Preserving and promoting the EU competitiveness is crucial, as are transparency and robust monitoring, reporting and verification requirements. Other key considerations include incentives to stimulate greenhouse gases emissions reductions, finance as well as technology deployment, as raised by the Senat. The use of sector-specific tools may also need to be further explored in this context, as suggested.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing this political dialogue in the future, as the EU position is being refined and negotiations move forward.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*