



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 28.11.2013  
C(2013) 8306 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Commission's Green Paper on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies {COM (2013) 169 final}. The views expressed in the Opinion are timely as the Commission intends to come forward with more concrete proposals for the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies in due time.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senat's support for the public consultation process. In this regard the Commission takes note of the Senat's concern regarding the EU ETS reform and the issue of EU competitiveness. Under the current framework there are measures which address the risk of "carbon leakage". The Green Paper considered the possible impacts on energy-intensive industry sectors and if and how the current measures should continue after 2020. The views expressed in the Senat's opinion are a helpful contribution in defining the future approach to this problem.*

*The EU energy policy must be defined and implemented in a way that supports competitiveness of our industry and economic recovery. One of the fundamental objectives of the EU energy policy besides security of energy supply and sustainability is to ensure competitive domestic and international energy markets, and energy costs which are internationally competitive and affordable for final consumers. Potential impacts on energy prices must therefore be carefully considered when defining new policies. At the same time we should not forget that energy policies can drive demand and growth in the low carbon economy and make our economy more resilient to energy costs through efficiency measures. The EU must maintain its leadership position in clean and more energy-efficient technologies, products and services and must pursue ambitious yet realistic policies.*

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*Concerning shale gas exploration, the Commission agrees that no potential new indigenous energy source should a priori be excluded if it can contribute to security of supply, competitiveness and sustainability. The Commission's role is to ensure that the rules of the game are clear and predictable for operators and authorities across Europe, while providing reassurance to the general public that appropriate climate and environmental safeguards are in place. To this end, the Commission is currently working on delivering a framework with a view to enable a safe and secure extraction of shale gas in Europe.*

*To conclude, the Commission would like to thank the Senat for its recommendations and for having engaged in this important discussion. The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*