



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion concerning the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – An EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change {COM (2013) 216 final}.

The Commission appreciates the support and favourable opinion expressed by the Senat regarding the recently adopted EU strategy in this relatively new policy field, emphasising that the strategy is indeed meant to support and complement the measures on adaptation that are taken at national and subnational levels.

The Commission shares the Senat's view that improved access to funding will be a critical factor in implementing adaptation. That is why the Commission has included adaptation in its proposals for all relevant EU finance programmes for the next budget period 2014-2020, with a proposal to increase climate related expenditure in this period to at least 20% of the EU budget.

The European Structural and Investment funds, which constitute over 40% of the EU-budget, will provide significant support to Member States, regions and cities for integrating adaptation into programmes and projects. This will be complemented, inter alia, by the Horizon 2020 research programme and the sub-programme for Climate Action under the new LIFE instrument.

The Commission is of the opinion that taking early, planned adaptation measures now will save on greater costs later. Concerning the level of risk in such investments, this can be minimised by prioritising flexible, low-cost and no-regret adaptation options. The European Platform on Climate Adaptation (Climate-ADAPT) includes some information on how to factor uncertainty into adaptation decision-making.

*Mr George CRIN LAURENȚIU
ANTONESCU
President of the Senat
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

