



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Communication on long term infrastructure vision for Europe and beyond {COM (2013) 711 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera Deputaților towards the objective of developing smart and flexible infrastructure through the implementation of projects of common interest. The Commission shares the view that the non-financial measures of the TEN-E regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 (e.g. on permitting and on regulatory incentives) are well complemented by the financial assistance through the Connecting Europe Facility.*

*The energy infrastructure priority corridors and areas listed in the Annex I of TEN-E regulation would guide towards a balanced implementation of infrastructure priorities. As foreseen in the regulation, the Commission, together with the Member States and all relevant stakeholders, will establish a second Union list of projects of common interest in 2015, it will give, among others, due consideration to the number of Member States affected by a project and the contribution of each project to territorial cohesion, while keeping the number of projects of common interest manageable. The Commission will remain focused on enhancing Union-wide security of supply in gas and electricity. At the same time, many projects of common interest in gas aim at supply diversification to reduce single supply dependency of Member States.*

*Regarding the enhanced integration of intermittent renewable energy through the implementation of projects of common interest, the Commission gives due consideration to the fact that production of renewable energy is frequently close to demand centres. The priority corridors and areas reflect this consideration: the thematic priority area of smart grid deployment focuses on the integration of electricity from renewable and distributed energy sources through the engagement of users from the same area (e.g. PCI 10.1 – The North Atlantic Green Zone Project, which enhances demand side management to lower wind curtailment), while projects in other corridors, e.g. the priority corridor on North South*

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*interconnections in Western Europe, specifically target the integration of renewable energy generation by transmitting them to the centres of demand (e.g. PCI 2.10 – the internal line in Germany to increase the capacity at northern and southern borders).*

*As regards smart grids deployment, out of four smart grid projects that applied, only two met the technical criteria laid down in Annex IV of TEN-E regulation and could therefore be selected as projects of common interest. The Commission encourages more projects in the area of smart grids deployment to evolve so as to be eligible for inclusion in the second Union-wide list of projects of common interest.*

*Regarding environmental protection, the Commission tabled a guidance document<sup>1</sup> in order to support Member States in defining adequate measures to streamline environmental assessment procedures while reducing the environmental impact of energy transmission projects. In this context, existing legislation on environmental protection was highlighted.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaţilor and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

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<sup>1</sup> "Streamlining environmental assessment procedures for energy infrastructure 'Projects of Common Interest' (PCIs)" available at [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/doc/assessment/20130919\\_pci-en-guidance.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/doc/assessment/20130919_pci-en-guidance.pdf)