



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 29.04.2015
C(2015) 2780 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Communication "Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" {COM(2014) 130 final}.

The Commission appreciates the interest of the Senat in the stock-taking exercise of the Europe 2020 strategy. As highlighted in the Communication, awareness and ownership by all relevant actors, including national Parliaments is a crucial prerequisite for the success of the strategy.

The Commission would like to underline that the main aim of the Communication was to assess the progress achieved in the first years of implementation of the strategy, and not to draw conclusions nor to formulate recommendations for the development of the strategy in the coming years. This is the ambition of the mid-term review that is currently under preparation. It is, however, too early to pre-empt the proposals that will be made by the Commission.

The Commission fully agrees with the Senat regarding the importance of complementing the quantitative analysis of progress towards the Europe 2020 targets with a more qualitative examination of action undertaken. This is explicitly highlighted in the Communication and is notably carried out in the context of the European Semester, which involves a thorough analysis of the policy agendas of Member States and their consistency with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

As regards the example of greenhouse gas emissions, as mentioned by the Senat, the impact of the economic crisis on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has to be recognised. Yet, the Commission would like to emphasise the contribution of current climate and energy policies to this outcome. In addition, the EU is steadily decoupling growth in economic activities and greenhouse gas emissions – between 1990 and 2012, EU GDP grew by 45% and emissions decreased by 18%. Moreover, the European Council has just reached a

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political agreement on the climate and energy framework for 2030, which reaffirms Europe's global leadership in this area.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senat in its Opinion and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Jyrki Katainen
Vice-President*