



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Communication on energy efficiency and its contribution to energy security and the 2030 Framework for climate and energy policy, (the Energy Efficiency Communication) {COM(2014) 520 final}.

The Commission welcomes the interest of the Camera Deputaților in this important policy area and the supportive views expressed by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion. In that regard the Commission would also like to recall its recently adopted Communication on the Framework Strategy on the Energy Union {COM (2015) 80 final}. The Energy Union is based on the three long-established objectives of EU energy policy: security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness. To reach these objectives, the Energy Union focuses on five mutually supportive dimensions: Energy security, solidarity and trust; the internal energy market; energy efficiency as a contribution to the moderation of energy demand; decarbonisation of the economy; and research, innovation and competitiveness.

The Commission has taken note of the suggestion by the Camera Deputaților to further enhance the sophistication of energy modelling underpinning the policy proposals in that field by notably extending its analysis of future scenarios to model technical and science progress that is independent of policy measures and by taking into account relevant variables such as behavioural changes. In that regard the Commission would like to clarify that the PRIMES model makes certain assumptions regarding both behavioural changes influenced by other factors than policies, such as prices, and technological progress. These assumptions are notably based on market data, extensive literature review and research. The Commission would like to confirm its ambition to continuously improve the accuracy of these analyses through regular updates, notably by comparing the assumptions of the models it uses with alternative models, up-to-date data and through additional research.

The Commission notes the Camera Deputaților's suggestion to factor in any long-term energy efficiency strategy support for training and education, in particular in areas of the

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information society (such as robotics), given their significant potential in this context. The Commission would like to point out that as far as energy efficiency is concerned the key challenge is not the development of new technologies but getting existing technologies, such as smart meters, efficient heating equipment and building insulation massively into the market. This is why EU support notably in terms of capacity building under the Horizon 2020 research programme is focused on those aims.

The Commission notes with interest the suggestion by the Camera Deputaţilor to analyse in more detail the link between energy efficiency and noise reduction.

The Commission also notes the expectation of the Camera Deputaţilor for the setting of a concrete deadline for Member States for a stepwise elimination of RES support and its request for more clarifications regarding the envisaged European governance mechanism for RES. In that regard the Commission would like to recall the European Council conclusions of 24 October 2014, which make clear that Member States may set out their own more ambitious renewable energy targets for 2030, and should be able to support them, in line with the State aid guidelines. The Commission does therefore not share the view that there is a need for concrete deadlines for Member States for stepwise elimination of all RES support, irrespective of whether the technologies in question are mature or not. However, the Commission finds that support for mature energy technologies that become grid-competitive, including renewable energy, should be phased out entirely in the period 2020-2030, as indicated in the Commission's Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 {COM(2014) 15 final}.

The Commission notes the expectation of the Camera Deputaţilor to recommend a close assessment of the costs of emissions reduction for every Member State, with detailed impact assessments, before deciding upon the 2030 framework, pointing out though that such assessment was already performed and relevant results were published in the 2030 Framework Impact Assessment {SWD(2014) 15}. Furthermore, considering the flexibility provided by the 2030 Framework to each Member State in achieving the agreed EU targets, the Commission supports the development of own national assessments and economic analyses by the Member States, especially in the context of developing national plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy, as proposed by the Commission in its Communication on the 2030 Framework.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*