



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication: Progress in completing the internal energy market {COM(2014) 634 final}.

The Commission welcomes the views expressed by the Camera Deputaților in the Opinion, in particular as regards the need for continuous efforts at European and national level to improve and interconnect the transmission networks for electricity and gas; and the development of simple and robust rules for the use of those networks. Both elements are vital in creating a functioning internal market for energy which can deliver competitive prices to European consumers while enhancing the security of energy supply across the Union. Moreover, modernising the transmission infrastructure and legal frameworks will facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources in an economically viable manner.

Against this backdrop, the Commission is pleased that Romania has recently made significant progress towards the liberalisation and integration of its energy markets, particularly in the implementation of the Third Energy Package, the certification of its transmission system operators, the introduction of market coupling for its electricity markets and the de-regulation of energy prices for non-household customers.

The Commission would however like to reiterate the importance of the gradual phasing out of below cost regulated retail prices for households in order to incentivise investments. Moreover, renewed efforts should be undertaken to accelerate the corporate

governance reform of state-owned enterprises in the energy and transport sectors in

order to increase their efficiency. Thirdly, the Romanian energy sector would benefit from the removal of regulatory barriers for gas exports, the completion of

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interconnection infrastructure with neighbouring countries as well as further measures to improve gas market liquidity.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*