



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.12.2015  
C(2015) 8988 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Communication "A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy" {COM(2015) 80 final}.*

*The Framework Strategy for the Energy Union is based on five mutually reinforcing and closely interrelated dimensions addressing the three objectives of security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness and on a strong commitment by the EU institutions and the Member States to deepen integration, cooperation and coordination. The Commission would like to recall that the instruments suggested in the Framework Strategy are aimed at giving Member States the flexibility they need to choose policies that best match their national conditions, while ensuring progress towards a competitive, secure and sustainable EU energy system.*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera Deputaților for greater transparency of the structure of energy costs and prices. As outlined in the Communication, detailed monitoring and reporting of this issue will be ensured by the Commission in 2016 notably via a new "Energy prices and Costs" report following the one issued in 2014. Moreover, the State of the Energy Union 2015, adopted and published on 18 November, includes a proposal for key indicators which also addresses this.*

*As underlined in the Camera Deputaților's opinion, research and innovation is key to the success of the Energy Union and is one of its five dimensions. As a first deliverable, the Commission published on 15 September 2015 a Communication on a new Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan. It builds on an integrated and cross-sectoral approach and focuses on ten research and innovation actions ensuring the EU's technological leadership. The plan will be a major contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Energy Union in this field and will feed into a more holistic initiative on research, innovation and competitiveness for the Energy Union foreseen for 2016.*

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*The Commission shares the Camera Deputaților's concerns regarding the situation of European retail markets. It therefore presented on 15 July 2015 a Communication on "Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers" {COM(2015) 339 final}, promoting increased competition and empowering the consumer to have more control over energy costs and be an active player on the market. This initiative also includes flanking measures to protect vulnerable customers, including energy efficiency improvements, which tend to provide the best long-term solution to energy poverty by reducing the energy bills of vulnerable consumers in a sustainable way.*

*The choice between different energy sources is the prerogative of each Member State and the implementation of the Energy Union will fully recognise this. The strategy will not prevent the development or continued use of nuclear energy in those Member States wishing to do so provided that the highest standards of safety and environmental protection are met. Safe and secure nuclear is also explicitly mentioned in the Energy Union strategy as well as in the Strategic Energy Technology Plan as a sector where EU technological leadership needs to be ensured. Both initiatives also recognise that further efforts on carbon capture and storage and carbon capture and use can contribute to the long-term decarbonisation goals.*

*The Commission is grateful for the Camera Deputaților's support of the further interconnection of the European electricity systems and that attention should be given also to interconnections with other European countries in South-East Europe and not just with EU Member States. The Commission wishes to recall that it is fully committed to further support interconnection in South-East Europe. The electricity interconnector foreseen between Romania and Serbia is just one example of a Project of Common Interest helping Romania to meet its interconnection targets and to better connect the energy markets within the region and with other parts of the European energy market.*

*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*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*