



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea
President of the Camera
Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
Str. Izvor nr.2-4, sector 5
RO – 050563 Bucharest*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Commission Communication "The Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020" {COM(2015) 81 final}.

Concluding an ambitious and robust global climate agreement at the Paris conference is a priority for the Commission. With this Communication, the Commission presented its vision of a Paris Protocol that would keep the world on track to keeping global average temperature increase below 2°C. This kick-started a discussion at EU level which culminated in the adoption by the Council of Conclusions setting out the EU's negotiating position for the Paris Conference¹, which are broadly in line with the Communication.

The Commission is pleased to note the Camera Deputaților's support for its vision of the new global climate agreement, with wide participation, full coverage of sectors and emissions, the highest possible level of ambition and strong commitments on mitigation. Addressing climate change requires an economic transformation on a global scale. This transformation is already ongoing, thanks in no small part to the EU's policy leadership, as recalled in the Camera Deputaților's opinion. But a robust agreement is needed in order to give this transformation a sense of direction and the strongest possible support from the world's governments.

As regards European climate policy, following the agreement at the European Council in October 2014, there is consensus between Member States on the climate and energy policy framework up to 2030. This ensures ambitious action by all, but also includes strong solidarity elements, such as a Modernisation Fund to help finance the modernisation of energy systems in certain Member States including Romania. It is this Commission's priority to continue implementing an ambitious domestic climate policy and it has already made the first legislative proposal to implement the 2030 framework.

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/09/18-conclusions-un-climate-change-conference-paris-2015/>

The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților that the land use sector is among the key sectors for both climate change mitigation and adaptation. As regards EU policy, the land use sector is included in the 2030 climate and energy framework, and the Commission will propose relevant legislation next year mindful of the multiple objectives in this sector.

The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Camera Deputaților as regards the compatibility of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with climate legislation. Both the EU and the US are committed to high levels of environmental protection and to the effective implementation of international and domestic environmental standards and agreements. The provisions on trade and sustainable development that the EU is putting forward in these negotiations build on this². As regards climate change, the TTIP should reaffirm the EU's and the US' commitment to the aims of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while recognising each party's right to go beyond them as appropriate. The EU also wants to tackle in TTIP other aspects to climate change mitigation, such as promoting trade and investment in environmental goods and services or enhancing transatlantic cooperation on energy efficiency.

For the Commission, international trade is part of the solution to climate change, as new low-carbon technologies must be developed and scaled up globally.

The opinion of the Camera Deputaților will be taken into account by the Commission services following the international climate negotiations. All Member States including Romania will be represented at the Paris Conference, where ministerial EU coordination meetings will take place every morning during the second week of the conference.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

² The EU objectives in this area for the TTIP negotiations have been made public http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/january/tradoc_153024.pdf