



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.12.2015
C(2015) 8990 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication 'Achieving the 10% electricity interconnection target - Making Europe's electricity grid fit for 2020' {COM(2015) 82 final}.

The Commission would also like to express its gratitude to the Camera Deputaților for its overall support for the increase of the interconnection level from 10 to 15%. The State of the Energy Union, published on 18 November 2015 {COM(2015) 572 final}, emphasised again that electricity lines and gas pipelines form the backbone of an integrated energy market and the basis for the development of an Energy Union.

Regarding the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților, the Commission wishes to make the following comments:

The Commission agrees on the importance of storage in the energy system, where increasing flexibility will be needed in the future. Cross-border co-operation strongly increases benefits from storage which may also facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy by including increased quantities of biogas.

Both electricity and gas storage can become Projects of Common Interest under Regulation 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure.

The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților that consumers should benefit from increased competition and it has therefore proposed a "New Deal for Consumers", the vision of which was outlined in the Commission Communication from 15 July 2015 {COM(2015)339 final}. That Communication will be followed-up through appropriate legislative action scheduled for 2016.

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*

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