



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.5.2016  
C(2016) 848 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication "A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe" {COM(2015) 192 final}.*

*Taking the right steps towards an improvement and growth of the European Union's Digital Single Market is one of the top priorities for the Commission's current term. The Commission very much welcomes the overall support received from the Camera Deputaților for its strategy.*

*The Commission takes seriously the concerns and suggestions expressed by the Camera Deputaților. In this regard we would first like to overall make reference to the important objectives of this strategy : to facilitate the cross-border access to online goods and services, to improve networks and digital services as well as to promote the growth of the EU's digital economy. With regard to data protection, the adoption of a new Data Protection Regulation giving effect to citizens' fundamental rights is imminent and further analysis will be carried out with regard to the handling of data based on the results of the public consultation on platforms.*

*The implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy is currently in its early stages with several public consultations inter alia on geo-blocking and platforms having been completed only at the end of 2015. The Commission has received more than 1400 replies with regard to geo-blocking and platforms alone. The Commission is looking forward to further dialogue with the Camera Deputaților based on the results of the public consultations which can be expected in the first half of 2016. The Commission values the Camera Deputaților's early engagement at this stage of the policy making process and will take its Opinion and other contributions received into account when coming forward with draft measures addressing the problem of geo-blocking and in the context of its comprehensive assessment on the role of*

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*platforms, which are both due in the first half of 2016. Furthermore, any legislative initiatives that may be tabled in the context of the Digital Single Market Strategy will, as usual, be transmitted to the Camera Deputaților and discussed in detail with the co-legislators in accordance with the Treaties, thereby implementing the competence rules to which the Camera Deputaților makes reference.*

*With regard to the concerns and suggestions of the Camera Deputaților related to the dissimilar competitive conditions within the EU and between EU and the US, the Commission would like to refer to another key aim of the Digital Single Market Strategy : to establish a supportive investment climate for digital networks, research and innovative business. Achieving our ambitions in this area will require significant investment. EU funding is already earmarked for Digital Single Market infrastructures and services as well as for research and innovation. Complementing current EU programmes, the European Fund for Strategic Investment is designed to support a wide range of digital projects. In addition, various actions of the Horizon 2020 programme aim to support research and innovation that provide opportunities also in the digital area. Furthermore, the E-government Action Plan seeks to promote the various aspects of digitalisation of public administrations in the EU.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply 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*

*Günther Oettinger  
Member of the Commission*