



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 6.4.2016  
C(2016) 1726 final*

*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 proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism {COM(2015) 291 final} and the proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism {COM(2015) 292 final}.*

*The Commission has previously taken position on the issue of competence to sign and conclude the Additional Protocol and that, in its view, only the Union is competent in this regard in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.*

*To ensure that the existing EU legal framework is in line with international standards and obligations addressing the evolving terrorist threats is a priority for the Commission. The recent terrorist attacks in Paris have added a sense of urgency to the already ongoing activities in the Commission related to the fight against terrorism and radicalisation. On 2 December 2015, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA<sup>1</sup>. The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its suggestions on the substance of such a proposal as well as other flanking measures, which will be carefully considered.*

*The Commission shares the appreciation of the Camera Deputaților that amendments to the legislative framework need to be seen as part of a comprehensive response to terrorism, taking due account of fundamental rights safeguards, the need to tackle radicalisation leading to terrorism and violent extremism at its roots and enhanced information exchange and cooperation between the relevant stakeholders, as this is reflected in the European Agenda on Security.*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2015) 625 final

*The Joint Communication by the High Representative and the Commission on the "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy" adopted on 18 November 2015 recognises that threats such as terrorism and radicalisation are affecting both Europe and its neighbours. The review therefore proposes to step up work with partners on counter-terrorism, including preventing radicalisation, countering violent extremism, supporting criminal justice responses to counter-terrorism, and countering and suppressing the financing of terrorism via appropriate anti-money laundering frameworks.*

*Tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation is one of the three priorities set out in the Agenda on Security<sup>2</sup>. As announced in the Agenda, the Commission launched a number of initiatives, including the establishment of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) Centre of Excellence (as of 1 October 2015) as well as the EU Internet Forum bringing together internet companies with law enforcement and civil society (launched on 3 December 2015).*

*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*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>2</sup> COM(2015) 185 final