



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 5.2.2016
C(2015) 573 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers {COM (2015) 339 final}.

This Communication forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to implement the Energy Union Strategy, launched as one of the political priorities of the Juncker Commission in February 2015.

Retail markets for energy are not working as well as they could for consumers. The proposals in the Communication aim to address this by outlining changes aimed at providing consumers with tangible benefits from actively participating in the market. This will not only allow them to enjoy lower bills and greater choice, but also help achieve the flexibility we need to better integrate variable renewable power generation.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's broad support for the aims of the Communication and notes its recommendation that the Commission look into the possibility of consumers obtaining energy from the small-scale generation of heat and electricity as alternatives or supplements to traditional centralized grid-connected power.

The Commission has taken due note of the views expressed by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion and will use them in its considerations of measures to be included in a new legislative proposal on redesigning the EU electricity market that it intends to bring forward in the fourth quarter of 2016. As a part of this process, the Commission is currently examining options for removing barriers to consumers generating and consuming their own energy and making the best use of other distributed energy resources.

Vice-President Šefčovič attended a working lunch with Members of the Romanian Parliament in October 2015, where he discussed the Energy Union Strategy and its implementation.

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Implementing the strategy will bring many benefits, including improving Romania's performance on energy security, energy efficiency as well as research and innovation.

The Commission hopes that this reply addresses 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*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*