



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Commission's Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the establishment of National Competitiveness Boards within the Euro area {COM(2015) 601 final}.

This proposal is part of a broader package of initiatives communicated by the Commission on 21 October 2015 {COM(2015) 600 final} taking steps towards completing Economic and Monetary Union building on the Five Presidents Report of 22 June 2015. In proposing the setting up of National Competitiveness Boards (NCBs), the Commission aims to improve the coordination and the surveillance of competitiveness developments within the Union. NCBs would contribute by providing expertise in the identification of challenges and policy solutions to address them. Ultimately, the purpose is to foster growth, convergence and resilience.

The Commission's Recommendation, although addressed to the Euro area Member States, includes an encouragement to all EU Member States to set up a NCB. Accordingly, the Commission welcomes the plan by Romania to set up an institution with the purpose to enhance productivity and competitiveness surveillance.

The Commission shares the opinion of Camera Deputaților that NCBs should adopt a broad view on competitiveness looking at cost and non-cost factors, including long-term productivity developments and prospects. While the general framework should be common, the challenges will by nature be country specific.

The Commission acknowledges the concern that the creation of the NCBs should not add to the complexity of the European economic governance and has taken steps in this direction on several fronts, including streamlining the European Semester process. Further steps will be taken as outlined in the Commission Communication of 21 October 2015. The Commission is

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convinced that, while institutional arrangements will need to be further discussed, the setup of the NCBs will effectively contribute to strengthen the policy dialogue and coordination between Member States and thus improve the overall economic policy at the European level.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Pierre Moscovici
Member of the Commission*