



**Parliament of Romania
Senate**

Bucharest, 2nd March 2016

**OPINION
of THE ROMANIAN SENATE
on
THE COMMUNICATION OF THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND
THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

The Enlargement Strategy

COM (2015) 611 final

The Senate of Romania has examined the Communication on the *Enlargement Strategy* according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no.1). Taking into account the report of the Committees on European Affairs and Foreign Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session on the 29 February 2016 decided, upon the following points of views:

The Senate remarked:

- a. The candidate states are facing to some major challenges – the refugee crisis, the energy security, the territorial security in the wake of their Eastern neighbour's aggressivity. It is worth to keep in mind that a great number of migrants is on the Turkey territory –more than 2 millions and large flows of refugees have crossed the Serbia and FYROM territories. At this point, it really matters that EU has reaffirmed the need to strenghten the cooperation with the candidate states while providing them a substantial financial aid .
- b. Under the current circumstances, a creative EU approach aiming at an enhanced transparency when appraising the efforts made by the candidate states is required, as to propose them a strategical direction and understandable objectives.
- c. The emphasis put on the *fundamentals first*, the rule of law, the fundaemntal rights, the public administration reform, the economical development and the coompetitivity.

- d. The preservation of the new approach agreed in 2012 on the Chapter 23 – Justice and Home Affairs and 24 – Justice, Freedom, Security, looking ahead for a prioritization along the negotiation process.

The Senate recommended:

- a. To reiterate a message leading to a non equivocal European perspective in the advantage of all the states included in the enlargement process. The candidate states need more than ever a strong political signal of the Union, as to give impetus to their negotiation progress. This issue is of outmost meaning taking into account the complexity of the crises in the vicinity of the European Union, namely the migrant flow, directly affecting the Western Balkans and Turkey.
- b. To reconfirm the importance of the enlargement policy as an essential political instrument of the Union. To this end, we have to underline the past and current role of the integration process in terms of peace, security, stability and prosperity in Europe, as well as its transformative power regarding the democratic, political, economical and social changes within the candidate or aspirant states.
- c. A Commission's clearer statement on the expectations regarding the achievements of the candidate states in the course of the negotiation process, at short and medium term.
- d. A common political approach which should be found within the national policy of the candidate or potential candidate states. In this sense, Romania fosters the efforts performed so far by the Republic of Moldova in respect to its European route.

p. PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



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