



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.05.2016
C(2016) 2750 final*

Dear President

The Commission would like to thank the Senat 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 – EU Enlargement Strategy {COM(2015) 611 final}.

The Communication sets out a medium-term strategy for EU enlargement policy during this Commission's mandate. The Commission fully shares the Senat's view that enlargement policy is an investment in peace, security and stability, in particular in view of the crises we are currently facing. With this objective in mind, the new 2015 Enlargement package, consisting of the Enlargement Strategy and the annual reports, introduced a more harmonised and transparent assessment methodology and provided clearer guidance on the reform priorities the enlargement countries should focus on. This should also facilitate greater scrutiny of reforms by all stakeholders. Given the positive results of these new elements, the Commission will further expand them to additional areas in 2016.

The Commission remains fully committed to continue supporting the candidate countries and potential candidates in their reform efforts which will allow them to progress on their European paths.

The Commission would again like to thank the Senat for its contribution and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Johannes Hahn
Member of the Commission*

*Mr. Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU
President of the Senat
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*