



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 24.6.2016
C(2016) 3777 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Decision on establishing an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements and non-binding instruments between Member States and third countries in the field of energy and repealing Decision No 994/2012/EU {COM(2016) 53 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senat for its proposal which constitutes an important component of the Energy Union. The goal of the Energy Union is to provide EU consumers – households and businesses – with secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. This specific proposal aims at ensuring the compatibility of intergovernmental agreements in the field of energy with EU law and to increase their transparency, thereby ensuring the proper functioning of the internal energy market and the security of supply of the Union.

As regards the reduction of the deadline for the Commission to respond under the terms of the ex-ante procedure, the Commission would like to stress that Article 5 of its proposal (Assessment by the Commission) already provides for some flexibility by specifying in paragraph 3 that the periods for the ex-ante assessment shall be shortened in agreement with the Commission if circumstances so warrant.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council in which your government is represented.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU
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