



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 01.03.2017
C(2017) 1274

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Commission's Communication on 'A European agenda for the collaborative economy' {COM(2016) 356 final} and welcomes the Camera Deputaților's general support for the document.

In its Single Market Strategy, dated 28 October 2015, the Commission made a commitment to develop a European agenda for the collaborative economy, including guidance on how existing EU law applies to collaborative economy business models.

The collaborative economy offers new opportunities for citizens and entrepreneurs alike. Online collaborative platforms enable individual citizens and businesses to offer consumers services either occasionally or on a professional basis and consequently consumers benefit from a wider choice of services. It can contribute to jobs and growth in the European Union if developed in a responsible manner.

The rapid growth of the collaborative economy brings with it both opportunities and challenges for traditional service providers. Competition must take place on the basis of rules that are clear and unambiguous. All stakeholders must comply with the rules and regulations applicable to them.

Across Member States, the lack of legal certainty and regulatory fragmentation hampers the development of the collaborative economy.

With this Communication, the Commission seeks to provide legal certainty on the EU rules applicable to collaborative economy operators and policy recommendations to promote the balanced development of the collaborative economy in Europe. The guidance clarifies key issues faced by market operators and public authorities with respect to market access requirements, consumer protection, liability regimes, employment relations and applicable tax rules.

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The development of the collaborative economy provides an opportunity for Member States to review the national legislation applicable to traditional and new business models and, where possible, reduce regulatory burden for all business operators.

The Commission will continue to monitor the regulatory environment, as well as economic and business developments. It will ensure that existing EU law is consistently applied across the Single Market and will continue to support the balanced development of the collaborative economy in Europe.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Member of the Commission*