



*Brussels, 7.2.2017
C(2017) 562 final*

Dear President

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 for a resilient Energy Union and to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation No 525/2013 {COM(2016) 482 final}.

This proposal forms part of a package of legislative proposals under the Energy Union which together would ensure that the EU is on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions domestically by at least 40% by 2030 and to fulfil its commitments under the Paris Agreement. This package of measures would help Europe preparing for the transition to a low-carbon economy. A wide range of policies will support citizens and businesses to achieve this transition, including on climate and energy, agriculture and transport, innovation and investment.

The Commission is pleased that the Senat shares the view that EU and Romanian action as envisaged in the proposal is required to implement the EU's commitment under the Paris Agreement. Following the guidance provided by the European Council in October 2014, the national targets are set on the basis of economic capacity to ensure a fair distribution of efforts in the EU. The proposed greenhouse gas emission reduction target for Romania of 2% between 2005 and 2030, with an EU overall target of 30%, is the second lowest of all Member States, reflecting Romania's lower gross domestic product per capita. The proposal foresees a new flexibility on the use of a limited number of emission reductions credits from the land use sector to comply with the national targets. A full use of this flexibility by Romania would mean that the Romanian target would effectively be reduced to around 0%.

The proposal hence provides the room for economic convergence, although it should also be underlined that investments into increased energy efficiency, decarbonisation of buildings and transport and a more efficient sustainable agriculture can contribute to creating jobs and generate growth while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The proposal also provides an incentive for other Member States with more ambitious targets to contribute to cost-

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efficient emission reductions in Romania, by allowing for transfers of allocations between Member States.

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.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*