



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Liviu DRAGNEA
President of the
Camera Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
Str. Izvor, nr. 2-4, sector 5
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the communication on accelerating Europe's transition to a low-carbon economy {COM(2016) 500 final}.

This communication is part of the EU efforts to stay competitive as the global social economic model changes as it moves towards a modern and low-carbon economy set by the Paris Agreement on climate change¹. The communication accompanied a broader legislative package based on the guidance provided by European leaders at the European Council of October 2014, with a view to achieving the agreed EU target of at least -40% greenhouse gas emission reductions compared to 1990.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's broad support for the aims of the communication, but notes the additional emphasis put by the Parliament on the role of rural communities and the need to address basic needs and reduce risks of poverty as well as the relation between the construction activities/building renovations and the need to protect soil biodiversity.

The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Camera Deputaților as regards the fairness of the system. To ensure fairness and solidarity, embedded in the climate and energy framework for 2030 as agreed by the European Council, the Commission proposed differentiated national emission reduction targets for 2030 that take account of the gross domestic product per capita of each Member State to reflect relative wealth². Furthermore, the Commission proposed a flexible system in which Member States can reduce

¹ This agreement was recently ratified by the European Union and entered into force on 4 November 2016.

² 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 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change {COM(2016) 482 final}.

emissions jointly, across a number of sectors and over time, reflecting also the different structure of Member States' economies. The proposal allows trade in emission allocations between Member States or the development of projects to reduce emissions in other Member States. This will facilitate investments flows across the EU towards where they are most needed to modernise the economy and where they will deliver the highest benefits at the lowest costs.

As regards the Camera Deputaţilor's disagreement with the assertion that the European Fund for Strategic Investment is providing a significant contribution to combating climate change, it is worth pointing out that with the launch of the second phase of the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the Commission proposed to further strengthen the investment focus on the objectives of low-carbon economy and that it proposed measures to reinforce the Funds take-up in less developed and transition regions³.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*

³ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) 2015/1017 as regards the extension of the duration of the European Fund for Strategic Investments as well as the introduction of technical enhancements for that Fund and the European Investment Advisory Hub {COM(2016)597 final}.