



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Liviu DRAGNEA
President of the Camera Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication 'Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation' {COM(2016)763 final}, and in particular for its support for the main messages presented therein. The Camera Deputaților's views will be very useful for the implementation of this policy.

The Communication lays out a strategy to develop and deploy innovative solutions in support of the transition to a low-carbon energy system. It focuses on bringing together innovation and European competitiveness. As noted by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion, education and training are not directly covered by the Communication. The European Union already has a variety of relevant education and training programmes, such as the activities undertaken by the European Institute for Technology's Knowledge and Innovation Communities¹, particularly relevant to business development and young entrepreneurs. The Knowledge and Innovation Communities carry out activities that cover the entire innovation chain, including training. In addition to already existing programmes, the Commission is planning to launch in 2018 a specific call in the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge on Energy on innovative education and training tools for European universities to respond rapidly to urgent industry needs to accelerate clean energy innovation.

With regard to the bio-economy, the European strategy is currently being reviewed and the outcome of this process is expected to be presented in a Commission Staff Working Document to be adopted in November 2017.

¹ <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/innovation-communities>.

Concerning assessments of e-mobility and raw materials for batteries, the Commission on 31 May 2017 adopted a Package dedicated to Mobility². The package also includes the Staff Working Document 'Towards clean, competitive and connected mobility: the contribution of Transport Research and Innovation to the Mobility package'³, which complements the Strategic Energy Technology Plan in implementing the Energy Union's research and innovation priorities. The package looks specifically into the transformation of the transport sector, where e-mobility is considered as one of the solutions, and provides a detailed assessment on this technology.

The Commission recalls that the successful implementation of the Communication is tied to Member States' efforts in ensuring the transition to a clean energy system. Through Horizon 2020, the Commission will increase public funding for clean energy technologies in line with the priorities of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan and invites Member States to also increase their investment. It should be noted that Horizon 2020 also offers widening actions⁴ to ensure that the benefits of an innovation-led economy are both maximised and widely distributed across the European Union. It is also important to consider synergies with European Structural and Investment Funds when it comes to the collaboration between the Commission and Member States. The continued support and constructive engagement of the Camera Deputaţilor in this important matter is much appreciated.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Carlos Moedas
Member of the Commission*

² https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/news/2017-05-31-europe-on-the-move_en.

³ SWD(2017) 223 final.

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/spreading-excellence-and-widening-participation>.