



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.7.2017
C(2017) 5404 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) {COM(2016) 767 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's support for its proposal which forms part of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package. The package sets out the legislative framework to reach the energy and climate objectives agreed by the European Council in October 2014. The package also implements the Energy Union with a view to providing European consumers – households and businesses – with secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy.

The proposal includes, in particular, a number of measures across various sectors, such as electricity, buildings, industry and transport, aimed at fostering the deployment of renewables. This ambitious set of measures would allow Member States collectively and the European Union as a whole to reach the target of at least 27% of renewable energy in gross final consumption of energy in the Union by 2030.

The Commission notes the Camera Deputaților's position as regards Member States' freedom to choose their own energy mix and national contributions to meeting the EU target. In that regard, the Commission would like to stress that Article 23 of the proposal sets out an objective to achieve an increase in renewable energy for heating and cooling by one percentage point per year. This provision is designed to give Member States sufficient flexibility to enact measures allowing for more deployment of renewable energy in this important sector. In the same spirit, Article 25 of the proposal introduces an obligation for fuel suppliers which would not translate into a sub-target for Member States and which would allow for a high degree of flexibility in its implementation.

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

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's support for self-generation and self-consumption and highlights that the provisions in Articles 21 and 22 of the proposal actively encourage so-called "prosumers" to participate in the energy market. This, along with the suggestion for cost-effective support schemes in Article 4 of the proposal, would help to lay the groundwork to stimulate market investment and increase the commercial viability of renewable technologies.

With regard to the Camera Deputaților's recommendation on State aid requirements, the current State aid guidelines for environmental protection and energy-related goals will remain in force until the end of 2020. The Commission has not yet tabled a timeline for their revision nor has it decided on a possible extension of the current guidelines beyond 2020.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's recommendation on encouraging innovative technical solutions for the transition to advanced biofuels. The Commission's suggestion to gradually reduce the share of conventional biofuels strives to stimulate these types of innovation in the biofuels market. With regard to directly financing these types of innovation, this question will depend on the outcome of the discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework for the period beyond 2020.

The Commission takes note of the Camera Deputaților's call for vocational training and enhancing technological literacy in Member States' educational systems. In that regard, the Commission recalls that the draft European Union Budget for 2018, published on 30 June, suggests supporting the stimulation of more jobs, especially for young people, as well as boosting growth and strategic investments across the European Union.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Julian King
Member of the Commission*