

Brussels, 13.01.2017 C(2017) 29 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Joint Framework on countering hybrid threats - a European Union response {JOIN(2016) 18 final}.

We take note that the concerns raised in the Joint Framework regarding the dangers of hybrid threats to the EU, generated by the growing instability in the Eastern and in the Southern neighbourhood, are shared by the Camera Deputaților. Furthermore, we appreciate its support in tackling this issue as a comprehensive government responsibility.

We are pleased to inform you that the Commission services, the External Action Service and the European Defence Agency in close cooperation have begun implementing the actionable proposals; notably in the areas of improving awareness, building resilience, responding to crises, recovering from hybrid attacks, and increasing cooperation with NATO. This latter work forms part of the common set of proposals to implement the Joint Declaration signed by the leaders of the European Union and NATO, as endorsed by the Council on 6 December.

We acknowledge and share the concerns expressed in the Opinion regarding in particular the engagement of Member States in assessing vulnerabilities and the need to contribute to the strengthening of the European Union's common security and defence policies. We are actively engaged in ensuring that all European Union instruments available are mobilised to help counter hybrid threats.

A formal report on the Joint Framework implementation will be presented to the Member States in July 2017.

Yours faithfully,

Frans Timmermans First Vice-President

Mr Liviu Dragnea President of the Camera Deputaților Palace of the Parliament Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5 RO – 050563 Bucharest Federica Mogherini High Representative/Vice-President