



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2018)3538 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Reflection Paper on Harnessing Globalisation {COM(2017) 240 final}.

This Reflection Paper follows the White Paper on the Future of Europe, presented on 1 March 2017, which sets out the main challenges and opportunities for Europe, and marks the beginning of a reflection process on the future of the European Union.

The Commission works constantly to address the challenges of globalisation. A fair distribution of wealth as well as focused investments fostering social inclusion will help to strengthen social cohesion in the Union. To achieve this, the Commission makes full use of all the policy instruments at its disposal.

At the same time, many of the tools are in the hands of Member States. These should deploy policies that enhance productivity, foster inclusiveness and direct most of their resources towards investment in innovation, education and the long-term drivers of competitiveness. Even Member States where fiscal space does not exist should use every opportunity to boost reforms and improve the quality of their public finances in support of jobs and growth.

While the Commission fully supports and works for a more efficient use of the Cohesion Instruments, the size and format of the next European funds, will be part of the upcoming discussions on the post-2020 multiannual financial framework.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

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