



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.7.2018  
C(2018) 2727 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Reflection Paper on the Future of European Union Finances {COM(2017) 358 final}.*

*In March 2017, the Commission published the White Paper on the future of the European Union at 27, followed by five reflection papers: on the social dimension of Europe, on deepening the Economic and Monetary Union, on globalisation, on defence and on the future of European Union finances. Together the papers lay out a range of ideas, concepts and possibilities in order to start a wide-ranging and open debate about the future of the European Union.*

*In the preparation of its proposals for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission has built on the open and inclusive debate launched in March 2017, and continued in June 2017 with the Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances.*

*Between 2 May and 14 June 2018, the Commission presented a comprehensive package for the 2021-2027 long-term budget, including sectoral legislative proposals for programmes supporting and implementing European policies. The package of proposals better aligns the Union budget with the Union's priorities and reinforces the added value of EU spending and its effectiveness and efficiency.*

*The Commission proposals are pragmatic and realistic, strongly geared toward the top political priorities agreed by Leaders in Bratislava and Rome on the future of Europe. They aim to show how the European Union can respond in a fair and balanced way to existing and emerging challenges, combining additional efforts with the necessary budgetary rigour, to move forward together with confidence to deliver on our common agenda.*

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU  
President of the Senat  
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5  
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

*In this context, the Commission notes that a number of elements of the Senat's Opinion are in line with its proposals, in particular as regards the need for a single rule book providing for a greater harmonisation of the rules, the financing of new priorities such as Security and Defence with the creation of a European Defence Fund, a strengthened external action, the budgetisation of the European Development Fund, as well as the simplification of the current system of own resources and the introduction of new own resources such as the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base.*

*The Commission is convinced that the proposals provide a solid basis for the negotiations to come. They have been accepted as the starting point for the discussions.*

*The Commission looks forward to a constructive and positive debate on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and to continuing the political dialogue with the Senat in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Věra JOUROVÁ*

*Member of the Commission*