



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.6.2018
C(2018) 3433 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Commission Work Programme for 2018 {COM(2017) 650 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senat's support for the priorities included in the Work Programme and for the objective to complete the legislative work before the European elections in spring 2019. Several of the policy initiatives announced have already been presented by the Commission, including in the areas of Capital Markets Union, the Energy Union and the Economic and Monetary Union as well as the proposals delivering on the Circular Economy Action Plan and a Social Fairness package. Remaining legislative proposals will be presented by the end of May this year.

As noted by the Senat, the Work Programme also presents initiatives that have a more forward-looking perspective, following the debate launched with the White Paper on the Future of Europe and the 2017 State of the Union address. These initiatives implement the Roadmap for a more United, Stronger and more Democratic Union that leads up to the meeting in Sibiu on 9 May 2019 and to the European Parliament elections in June 2019.

The Commission welcomes the Senat's support for Better Regulation and the implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making. It underlines that the Better Regulation Agenda remains a top priority and that its principles are diligently applied throughout the policy process to inform political choices and strengthen their legitimacy and the accountability vis-à-vis the European citizens. An important element of the Better Regulation Agenda is to focus the action of the European Union on where it brings real added value. In November 2017 President Juncker has set up the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently", whose task it is to identify policy areas where work could be re-delegated or definitely returned to Member States and to make proposals how to better apply the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and better involve regional and local authorities in the European Union policy making. The Task Force will report to President Juncker by mid July 2018.

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The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*