



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 30.04.2018  
C(2018) 2362 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/73/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas {COM(2017) 660 final}.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Senat shares the view that action at Union level, as envisaged in the proposal, is required to achieve the objective of an integrated market for gas in the Union. As recognised by the Senat, the proposal contributes to the completion of the internal market for energy in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and thereby to the project of creating an Energy Union.*

*Once adopted, the proposal will ensure the applicability of the regulatory framework for the internal gas market to gas transmission lines connecting the Union with third countries, which currently do not fall within the scope of Directive 2009/73/EC. This, in turn, will contribute to the functioning of gas markets and to the security of gas supply in the Union.*

*The Senat's Opinion has been forwarded to the relevant Commission services and will form part of the briefing files used in the discussions on the proposal with the European Parliament and the Council.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU  
President of the Senat  
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