



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 28.6.2018
C(2018) 4010 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles as part of the Union's integrated approach to reduce CO₂ emissions from light-duty vehicles and amending Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 {COM(2017) 676 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senat's support to the proposal which will contribute to the Energy Union Framework Strategy's goal to bring about the transition to a low-carbon, secure and competitive economy.

The Commission has taken good note of the Senat's considerations, calling for a realistic level of ambition to enable the sector to adapt, including as regards employment issues. The Senat considers that too ambitious targets could increase costs for manufacturers as well as for consumers purchasing new and second-hand cars. The Commission would therefore like to provide some clarifications.

First, the proposal sets ambitious and realistic CO₂ emission standards for new cars and vans, both for 2025 and 2030, which have been based on a sound analysis and broad stakeholder involvement, as set out in the accompanying impact assessment. The proposal sets a clear direction in view of achieving the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement. It would help Member States reach their binding targets under the Effort Sharing Regulation.

Second, while manufacturing costs may slightly increase due to the uptake of new technologies, the fuel cost savings for car owners would be significantly higher and this both for first and second users. Consumers across Europe would thus save money and European citizens would benefit from better air quality.

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Finally, the proposed standards would have an overall positive impact on employment as it caters for a smooth transition to low- and zero-emission vehicles, allowing a gradual shift in manufacturing processes and the automotive supply chain.

Following the Commission's adoption of the proposal, discussions are ongoing in the Council Working Party on Environment. On the side of the European Parliament, the rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs have been nominated, and discussions have started. The Commission is hopeful that an agreement will be reached between the co-legislators in the course of this year.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission*