



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.9.2017
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its opinion on the White Paper on the Future of Europe. The Commission agrees with your assessment in the first paragraph of your conclusions of the last 60 years in the history of Western Europe.

Making the European Union more democratic has been one of this Commission's ten priorities since taking office. The Commission has always agreed on the need for national Parliaments to be included and integrated in the discussions and the policy-making process relating to the Future of the European Union.

The adoption of the White Paper on the Future of Europe marks the beginning of a process for the EU27 to decide on the future of their Union. The starting point for each of the scenarios in the White Paper is that the 27 Member States move forward together as a Union. President Juncker has made clear that the current Treaties already allow for a multitude of forms of cooperation in groupings across all Member States, and therefore this possibility should not be presented or understood as something new undermining the Union's unity.

The decisions concerning the future course of European integration lie in the hands of Europeans. In the same vein, inclusion and equality of the Member States has always been a guiding principle for the Commission.

The Commission would like to point out that the scenarios presented in the White Paper are merely options. There is no preferred scenario nor were any concrete plans, including the limitation of cohesion policy, developed for the White Paper.

The Commission also takes note of your reservations on the proposal from the European Parliament's Report of February 2017 on budgetary capacity for the euro area, supporting a budget dedicated to Member States from the euro area and limited access for other Member States.

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The White Paper on the Future of Europe has launched a wide-ranging debate with citizens. The Commission, together with the European Parliament and the Member States, is hosting a series of "Future of Europe Debates" across Europe's national Parliaments, cities and regions. In this regard the Commission very much welcomes that your Parliament is also becoming actively involved, and would wish to express its gratitude for the efforts made to promote the further development of the European Union.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue on the Future of Europe.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First-Vice President*