



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.8.2017  
C(2017) 5529 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its opinion concerning the Joint Communication on 'Elements for an EU Strategy for Syria' {JOIN(2017) 11 final}.*

*This Communication, together with the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of 3 April 2017, represents the European Union's Strategy for Syria. The adoption of these conclusions confirms the strong consensus behind the goal of a political solution to the conflict and the means to achieve it. Member States stand behind the European Union's decision to play a relevant political role in Syria and prepare for a solution that would bring stability and peace to the country and allow reconstruction to start.*

*Bearing in mind the political objectives of the Strategy, I would like to underline that, as suggested by the Camera Deputaților in its opinion, the European Union does its utmost to support the process in Geneva and reinforce the role of the United Nations' Special Representative Staffan de Mistura to mediate between the parties in the conflict, while engaging directly to assist and support the Syrian political opposition and in particular the High Negotiation Committee as well as Syrian civil society and peacebuilding initiatives.*

*The European Union remains strongly committed to providing support for the Syrian people inside as well as outside Syria and applies the concept of a "whole of Syria" approach towards humanitarian aid inside the country, that is delivering assistance to the most vulnerable people across all parts of Syria, on the basis of their actual needs and according to the most effective access route. As mentioned in the Strategy, we see our mission of saving lives as a responsibility to help and protect all Syrians in need, irrespective of their location or political affiliation. Furthermore, the European Union is directly engaged in enhancing the resilience of Syrian people and society and works*

*Mr Liviu DRAGNEA  
President of the Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

*directly with local councils in opposition-held areas to provide basic services to the population.*

*The Brussels conference hosted in April by the European Union gathered the highest pledges for Syria since the war started, with EUR 5.6 billion for 2017 and more than EUR 9 billion until 2020. Most of this money has been pledged for supporting the refugees in the region, and for humanitarian and resilience support inside Syria, reflecting the scale and the needs generated by this tragic conflict.*

*However, support for reconstruction can only be considered once a political transition is firmly underway. Support for reconstruction must be a peace dividend.*

*We note the Camera Deputaților's suggestion that the European Union should play a more relevant role in mediating between regional actors, with a reference to Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We could not agree more and we confirm that it is the purpose of the EU regional initiative for a dialogue with all regional actors to build a common ground for an end-state in Syria that would be supported by all.*

*The Commission and the High Representative hope that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and look forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Julian King  
Member of the Commission*