



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.06.2018
C(2018) 3863 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Joint Communication on a strategic approach to resilience in the European Union's external action {JOIN(2017) 21 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senat for the proposals laid out in the Communication. The Communication combines both a political and an operational approach, underpinned by a renewed commitment to the broad transformative agenda that the Union has set for its external action, anchored to Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy.

The Commission takes note of the Senat's suggestion to focus on the operationalisation of the proposals in the Joint Communication. The Commission is pleased to inform the Senat that work is ongoing to put in place concrete actions.

These include the four building blocks which were endorsed by the Council in 2017. Firstly, to improve risk analysis at country and regional level, by drawing together integrated assessments from diplomatic, development and economic actors in our partner countries. In addition to improving the existing conflict early warning system, we have now established a horizon-scanning mechanism that draws on intelligence and open sources to identify emerging threats to the European Union interests. Moreover, we are integrating a resilience approach into European Union programming and financing, which is already a significant strand of our work under the Trust Fund for Africa, where we recently announced new projects for EUR 467 million. It is also central to the work with our Eastern Partners under the European neighbourhood policy. For instance, the Commission is working with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to foster resilience in Moldova by strengthening cyber-security, cyber-defence and the ability to respond to hybrid threats.

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The Commission will shortly publish proposals for the future external financing instruments, which will also reflect the resilience approach set out in the Joint Communication.

The Commission is also developing the European Union's policy framework for resilience, which has been widely welcomed by civil society actors in Europe. In addition to raising this in our regular dialogue with multilateral development partners, resilience is a vital component of our cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The Commission hopes that this reply addresses the comments raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Federica Mogherini
Vice-President/High Representative*