



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.7.2018
C(2018) 3984 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Communication 'A credible enlargement perspective for an enhanced European Union engagement with the Western Balkans' {COM(2018) 65 final}.

The Communication forms part of the larger strategy to strengthen the Union by 2025. The future of the Western Balkans as an integral part of the European Union is in the Union's very own interest and the prospect of European Union membership is a real driver of reforms and stability in the region.

The Commission also remains fully committed to the Eastern Partnership, in line with the outcomes of the Brussels Eastern Partnership Summit of 24 November 2017, the revised European Neighbourhood Policy of 2015 and the 2016 Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy. The Commission will continue to work actively with the Union's Eastern Neighbours to build a common area of shared democracy, prosperity, stability and increased cooperation, while building their and the European Union's resilience to crises and shocks. The 20 deliverables by 2020 will contribute to further strengthen the ties between the EU and its Eastern Partners. The Commission welcomes the continued strong engagement of all Member States – including Romania – in this endeavour, which is essential in order to achieve our common objectives.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Johannes Hahn
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU
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