



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2018) 8420 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication “A renewed European Agenda for Research and Innovation – Europe’s chance to shape its future” {COM(2018) 306 final}.

This Communication presented a set of concrete actions to boost the European Research and Innovation agenda feeding into the informal discussion that the Heads of State or Government held in Sofia on 16 May 2018.

The Commission welcomes the support from the Camera Deputaților on key elements of this renewed European Agenda for Research and Innovation.

As education plays indeed a major role to develop the skills for the future, the Commission is convinced that to strengthen knowledge transfer, a stronger link between vocational education and training and innovation systems is needed, to contribute to skills intelligence and better skills matching in line with the Skills Agenda for Europe.

The extended European Fund for Strategic Investments provides even more financial support to smaller companies, including innovative microenterprises. Given the success of the European Fund for Strategic Investments in supporting small companies, the extended European Fund for Strategic Investments indeed increases the proportion of the guarantee for small and medium-sized enterprises from 26% to 40%. The new European Fund for Strategic Investments also encourages the European Investment Bank Group to help national promotional banks set up investment platforms to bundle several small-sized projects by theme or by region in order to attract investors.

By October 2018, total financing under the European Fund for Strategic Investments in Romania amounts to 459 million euros and is set to trigger 2 billion euros in additional

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investments. There are nine approved agreements with intermediary banks or funds financed by European Investment Fund with the backing of the European Fund for Strategic Investments in the country, offering 107 million euros in financing. These interventions are set to trigger approximately 1 billion euros in investments with some 11,979 small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-cap companies expected to benefit from improved access to finance.

At the same time, building on the successful role of the European Fund for Strategic Investments and other financial instruments in catalysing private investments throughout Europe, the Commission proposes to set up a new, fully integrated investment fund – the Invest EU Fund, which aims to further facilitate access to finance for small and medium enterprises. The inter-institutional negotiations on this new instrument are ongoing.

With its proposal for Horizon Europe, the next research and innovation framework programme, based on the accompanying comprehensive impact assessment, the Commission aims to firmly anchor the European Innovation Council pilot into the framework programme in order to ensure adequate and efficient support for breakthrough innovation. In addition, Horizon Europe will play a major role in helping to raise awareness about European support for research and education.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Jyrki Katainen
Member of the Commission*