



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2018) 8798 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 {COM(2018) 385 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's overall support for its proposal on establishing the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action for the next multiannual financial period 2021-2027, with an enlarged scope including the new sub-programme on clean energy.

The Commission proposes the continuation of a European Union programme solely dedicated to environmental and climate objectives as a niche between programmes supporting research and innovation on the one hand and programmes financing large-scale deployment on the other hand. It will develop synergies with other Union programmes, such as the InvestEU Fund, Horizon Europe, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund+, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. These programmes, whilst having distinct goals and being different in size and nature, however have inter-related activities and therefore they could help to replicate and upscale techniques, approaches and best practices previously developed under the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action.

The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților's request to maintain the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action easily accessible also to new applicants and will continue working to adopt simplification measures for applicants and beneficiaries belonging to a wide range of different organisations: from small to large enterprises, to private non-commercial organisations, to public national or local bodies. The Commission recognises that these simplification measures will be essential to address the needs of the specific types of beneficiaries during the implementation of the programme as well as to respond to new and emerging policy needs. All these issues will be better defined in the future multi-annual work programmes and calls.

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The Commission recognises that lack of adequate financing is one of the main causes for insufficient implementation of Union nature legislation and of the biodiversity strategy. The Programme for the Environment and Climate Action will keep financing projects which aim at contributing to the application of best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity in particular focusing on the Natura 2000 network, but not limited to it. It will contribute in this way to halting and reversing the biodiversity loss. Integrated projects have been useful for better mobilising and using finance for environment, climate and biodiversity in other instruments of the European Union, as well as through more effective policy integration.

The Commission takes note of the observations made by the Camera Deputaţilor with regard to the use of indicators. At the same time, the Commission considers of key importance to have the possibility to measure the achievements of the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action. The Commission is aware that the need for monitoring the programme implementation implies a burden for the recipients of Union funding and is committed to keep the reporting requirements proportionate (see Art.18.3 of the proposal for the Regulation of the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action). In addition to that, the Commission included a limited set of indicators in Annex II of the proposed Regulation and, where considered necessary, will amend, review or complement these indicators through adopting delegated acts in order to ensure flexibility.

The Commission reiterates the importance of adopting the next multiannual financial framework before May 2019, as this would provide for a seamless transition between the current long-term budget (2014-2020) and the new one and would ensure predictability and continuity of funding to the benefit of all.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaţilor and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*