



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.12.2018  
C(2018) 8802 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinions on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination for Horizon Europe, including the rules for participation, and the related Specific Programme {COM(2018) 435 final} and the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation {COM(2018) 436 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the views of the Senat that the objectives of the proposals can be better achieved at Union level and should have many positive effects on scientific knowledge, excellence and impact and on mobility of researchers within the European Research Area, as well as positive effects on economic growth, trade and jobs.*

*The Commission has taken due note of the remarks and recommendations made by the Senat in its Opinions concerning remuneration. In this regard, the Commission would like to underline that the Horizon Europe programme will not be paying salaries to researchers but it will be reimbursing costs to organisations, including personnel costs.*

*Concerning the level of funding for the future ‘Sharing Excellence’ actions, the Commission notes that the proposed amount of EUR 1.7 billion is more than double the amount allocated for Widening actions in the current Horizon 2020 programme and hence is a greater proportional increase than the overall increase in funding for Horizon Europe compared to Horizon 2020.*

*A final point mentioned in the Opinions is that the funding of the future ‘Sharing Excellence’ actions should not just be increased using the same tools, but new tools are also needed.*

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU  
President of the Senat  
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5  
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

*In order to improve the impact of Sharing Excellence part, for the three core actions, Teaming, Twinning and European Research Area Chairs, some fine-tuning changes are proposed in Horizon Europe compared to Horizon 2020: research activities will be supported (with different modalities given the different nature of measures); development of research management skills and increased sustainability via improved planning will be required as will the involvement of an advanced partner for all actions.*

*The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Carlos Moedas  
Member of the Commission*