



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2019) 659 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication on the First Biennial Report on Progress in Developing the EU Customs Union and its Governance {COM(2018) 524 final}.

This Communication is part of the Commission's efforts to answer the calls for a more unified approach to the Customs Union and for a more effective and more coherent overall management to address the challenges the Customs Union faces. The Communication reviews the operation of the Customs Union to date and identifies priority issues ahead. One of the purposes was to enhance the dialogue with all stakeholders, including Member States and their institutions.

On the basis of the Communication, the Commission intends to continue with the current initiatives in the priority areas, such as the implementation of the Union Customs Code and ensuring its uniform application via issuing guidance documents, while at the same time focusing on the priorities ahead which were identified in the second part of the Communication.

The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților shares its views on which areas are a priority for actions at the level of the European Union – such as the support for the uniform implementation and application of the Union Customs Code, the strategic and comprehensive approach to the European Union Customs digitalisation or the fight against fraud and a careful approach to e-commerce.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's broad support for the initiatives presented in the Communication. It believes that the ongoing initiatives and the priority issues identified, as well as the actions to be addressed outlined in the Communication

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offer assurance to the Camera Deputaților that its recommendations and concerns will be attended to. The Commission will take the Camera Deputaților's Opinion and other contributions received into account when the specific activities are designed.

The Commission fully recognises the efforts Romania puts into protecting the Eastern border of the European Union. Also to address the specific and challenging situation at the Eastern border, the Commission tabled, as a part of the Multiannual Financial Framework package, an instrument for financial support of customs control equipment.

The Commission will continue supporting a coherent implementation of the recent European Union Customs legal framework, new working methods and new Information Technology tools. It will also aim to direct the future activities of the Union customs at the new priority issues identified in the Communication. The Commission together with the Member States will decide on the appropriate way forward in due course.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Pierre Moscovici
Member of the Commission*