



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24.1.2019  
C(2019) 302 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication on a new Africa – Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs: Taking our partnership for investment and jobs to the next level {COM(2018) 643 final}.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților shares the view that the European Union and African States need to strengthen their partnership and enhance their investment, business, trade and economic relations. The proposed Alliance is fully in line with this view. The Alliance aims to boost investments and create jobs by investing in education and skills, improving the business climate and strengthening economic integration and trade. To make this proposal a success, the Commission will foster mobilisation of African and European partners and ensure the coordination of actions.*

*The Commission appreciates the importance given to the topics of responsible business and investments. The Commission concurs with the Camera Deputaților on the need to de-risk and attract more investments in Africa, through blending and guarantees, giving priority to sectors with potential for job and added-value creation for African economies. The European Union's ambition is to scale-up the External Investment Plan to mobilise over EUR 44 billion in both public and private investment.*

*The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților's views on trade opportunities between the European Union and Africa. In particular, the Alliance supports African economic integration through the Continental Free Trade Agreement and strives to enhance Africa-European Union trade, building on their Economic Partnership Agreements.*

*Mr Liviu DRAGNEA  
President of the  
Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

*Converging with the Camera Deputaților, the new Alliance prioritises investing in education and skills, including vocational education and training. To support this, the Commission will boost its support to provide youth with access to education, notably Technical and Vocational training, as well as digital skills and competences. The European Union provides strong support to scholarships and exchange programmes and intends to further increase these efforts.*

*The Commission is in accordance with the Camera Deputaților's notion to strengthen the cooperation between the European Union and the African Union on several issues. To this end, Strategic Sectoral Task Forces, bringing together African and European partners, are being set up in key areas such as digitalisation, energy, transport and agriculture.*

*The Commission also takes note of the Camera Deputaților's opinion in favour of extended cooperation at parliamentary level between the European Union and the African Union. The European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament are dedicated to strengthen their inter-parliamentary cooperation, to exchange experience and discuss joint challenges.*

*The Africa-Europe Alliance is a joint endeavour where the European Union and its Member States can make a real difference by working better together. The Commission therefore looks forward to continuing the political dialogue and cooperation with Romania, as well as other Member States, on the Alliance, reflecting a collective effort to invest and create jobs in Africa.*

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

*Yours sincerely,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Neven Mimica  
Member of the Commission*