



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.4.2019
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the proposal on the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument to finance immediate budgetary measures to address the on-going challenges of migration, refugee inflows and security threats {COM(2018) 708 final}.

As the Camera Deputaților rightly points out, the Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020 was decided before the migration and refugee crisis broke out and therefore did not foresee sufficient resources to face it. The special instruments, particularly the Flexibility Instrument, allowed the European Union to finance specific actions inside the Union, showing the necessary solidarity to the frontline Member States. It also allowed investments outside the European Union to be financed, thus contributing to addressing the root causes of migration.

The experience of the usefulness of this budgetary instrument, as well as the assessment of the functioning of the overall flexibility ‘toolbox’ in the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, including the improvements introduced in the 2017 revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation, have been taken into account in the Commission proposals for the period 2021-2027.

The Commission has proposed to build on the existing architecture of flexibility mechanisms and special instruments, in order to consolidate and enhance the budget’s capacity to react quickly, decisively and efficiently in a fast-changing world, while preserving the stability that the multiannual framework offers. In relation specifically to the Flexibility Instrument, the Commission has proposed to maintain its essential features as regards the conditions for its mobilisation and the possibility to mobilise

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unused portions of annual amounts up to year $n+3$. The Commission has also proposed to increase the annual amount from EUR 689 million in the current period to EUR 1 billion (in 2018 prices) in 2021-2027, and to simplify the procedure for its mobilisation by aligning it with the rules applicable to the adoption of the European Union's budget under Article 314 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Günther H. Oettinger
Member of the Commission*