



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.11.2019
C(2019) 8204 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Environmental Implementation Review 2019: A Europe that protects its citizens and enhances their quality of life' {COM(2019) 149 final}.

The Commission welcomes the broad support of the Camera Deputaților for the aims of the Environmental Implementation Review and would like to provide the below observations.

The Environmental Implementation Review aims at improving implementation in the field of EU environmental policy and legislation by identifying the causes of implementation gaps and addressing systemic obstacles to environmental integration across policy sectors. It maps the main challenges for each Member State, as well as existing good practices and points of excellence. This is a two-yearly cycle of analysis, dialogue and collaboration to improve implementation of EU environmental policy and law.

The recommendations made to the Member States stay within the current EU legislative acquis, focusing on a more effective implementation and sharing of best practices. Weak implementation generates high societal, economic and environmental costs and an uneven playing field for businesses, as is also underlined by the Camera Deputaților.

Better environmental implementation is necessary to ensure a transition to a circular economy, which contributes directly to the implementation of the first of the priorities of the Juncker Commission ('Jobs, growth and investment'). It leads to the gain of growth and jobs (through eco-innovation, improved waste and water management) and facilitates ensuring a level playing field for business across the EU internal market.

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

Furthermore, the Environmental Implementation Review also contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is also important to follow all actions up with close dialogue and cooperation with the Member States. In this respect, the Commission is particularly pleased that the Camera Deputaților supports actions towards nature conservation objectives and the protection of ecosystems in order to halt the continuing loss of biodiversity. Implementing the Nature Directives¹ remains a considerable challenge. We are confident that the Romanian authorities will adopt legislation in accordance with the environmental acquis and actions that support Romania's Natura 2000 network (in particular the designation of protected natural areas and their management, for which EU funding is available) as well as impede illegal logging. Improving the administrative capacity framework and the updated knowledge and data could be also a solution for a better management of forests.

We hope that these issues will be addressed with determination in the discussions on the programming priorities under the next multiannual financial framework.

The Commission fully supports all attempts to effectively address Romania's environmental challenges that the Commission services identified in the 2019 Environmental Implementation Review report on Romania.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*

¹ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended. OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7–25.