



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 13.11.2020  
C(2020) 7994 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council — A roadmap for an agreement on the long-term budget of the European Union for the period 2021-2027. The contribution of the European Commission to the European Council meeting of 20-21 June 2019 {COM(2019) 295 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Opinion, which it received on 10 September 2020, and appreciates the support of the Camera Deputaților for an ambitious agreement for a future long-term budget with a focus on European added value.*

*A lot of progress has been made in 2019 and 2020. The Commission published on 27 May 2020 the Communications “The EU budget powering the recovery plan for Europe” {COM(2020) 442 final} and “Europe’s moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation” {COM(2020) 456 final}, which aim to strengthen the EU’s economic recovery from the crisis caused by COVID-19.*

*As requested by the European Council, the recovery plan was based on a solid assessment of needs that was published together with the proposals. The needs assessment was carried out in line with best practices by other international organisations. There is no comparable analysis available at the level of the EU or individual Member States. The needs assessment has been broad in coverage and prudent in its estimates. All in all, the public and private investment gap and equity repair needs in the EU sum up to EUR 2.7 trillion in 2020-2021 alone.*

*This shows that the economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented. The EU economy will experience a recession of historic proportions this year. The Commission’s recent Summer Forecasts pointed to an increasing intensity of the crisis and reinforced the need for an exceptional response. The pandemic has touched every part of the Union. However, its economic and social impacts differ between Member States and sectors, and so does the ability of Member States to absorb and respond to the resulting economic shock. Due to lower resilience and weaker fiscal positions, some Member States have been more constrained in their economic responses than others.*

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*A strong and coordinated European response is essential. Member State economies are strongly interconnected through the Single Market. All European industrial ecosystems rely on complex supply chains spread across several Member States. In the absence of a strong European response, some Member States may get stuck in a situation of sluggish growth, high unemployment and a permanently weakened corporate sector. This would result in growing divergences within the Union and put the single market under severe strain, threatening the Union's longer-term growth potential.*

*The Commission is confident that Europe's recovery plan and long-term budget will also address the issues raised in the Opinion of the Camera Deputaților, which calls for public and private investment in key sectors such as research, infrastructure, new technologies, SMEs including small farms or peoples skills and education. The proposals also take account of the different conditions and needs of Member States. As regards the concern for sustained funding of cohesion and common agricultural policy, the Commission would like to stress that on top of the funds provided by the new multiannual financial framework, NextGenerationEU includes key instruments such as REACT-EU to increase cohesion support to Member States, and additional funds for Rural Development and the Just Transition Fund to make economies more resilient and sustainable in the crisis repair phase. For the Commission, it is also of crucial importance to ensure a balanced recovery in the longer term, avoiding asymmetries and divergences of growth between and within Member States.*

*The Commission strongly welcomes the unanimous agreement reached by the European Council on 21 July 2020 on the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and the recovery package. The agreement endorsed the approach put forward by the Commission and is proof of Europe's ability to act, to show solidarity in times of crisis, and to keep the European promise of a better future.*

*The Commission shares the concern that a swift establishment of the legal frameworks of the various programmes is now of key importance to enable an efficient and effective implementation and allow that funds can start flowing to Europe's regions, researchers, farmers and citizens. Following the Opinion given by the European Parliament on 16 September, we are now waiting for the formal adoption of the revised Own Resources Decision by the Council. National Parliaments will then have an essential role to play in the approval of this Decision by Member States in accordance with their national constitutional requirements. It will be essential to complete this process quickly to ensure that NextGenerationEU can be launched on 1 January 2021.*

*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,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Johannes Hahn  
Member of the Commission*