EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Brussels, 8.5.2020 C(2020) 3153 final

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

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council Towards better implementation of the EU's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism framework {COM(2019) 360 final}.

The Commission takes this opportunity to recall that the Communication forms part of a broader package of measures designed to put forward a comprehensive policy approach. The aim of the Commission is to achieve a strong and effective Union regulatory framework for preventing money laundering and terrorist financing and promote those standards globally. In accordance with the Commission Work Programme 2020¹, the Commission adopted a new Action Plan on Anti-Money Laundering on 7 May. That Action Plan seeks to improve the supervisory system and improve the enforcement of the rules to ensure the integrity of the European financial system and reduce the risks of instability.

The Commission is pleased to acknowledge that the Camera Deputaților shares the view that action at Union level as envisaged in the Communication is required to address shortcomings in the regulatory and structural framework.

The Commission moreover is examining in depth the concerns expressed by the Camera Deputaților as regards regulatory standards for virtual currencies, tax transparency and the availability of beneficial ownership information. These represent matters to which the

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Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Commission Work Programme 2020, "A Union that strives for more", of 29.1.2020 COM(2020) 37 final, available at https://eurlex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar%3A7ae642ea-4340-11ea-b81b-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC 1&format=PDF

Commission already affords the greatest attention in implementing the existing policy and in devising measures and actions it will propose in the near future.

As indicated in the Communication referred to by the Camera Deputaților, the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing is currently hampered by a significant fragmentation of the regulatory and supervisory framework within the Union. Harmonising relevant requirements, creating a stronger coordination and support mechanism for the competent national authorities and bringing a stronger coordination of the anti-money laundering supervision at Union level will ensure a more effective implementation of the existing framework. Those objectives have been confirmed in Commission's action plan adopted on 7 May. Setting ambitious but achievable targets will give a renewed impetus to meeting the Union's commitments and demonstrates its readiness to assume a leadership role in fighting money laundering and terrorist financing globally.

The Commission's Action Plan, alongside a dedicated consultation round involving representatives and experts of the Member States, and together with a public consultation, will outline and consolidate the measures the Commission intends to propose to deliver an integrated Union anti-money laundering regime. The Commission plans to adopt legislative proposal in Q1 2021.

The Commission values the Camera Deputaților's engagement at this stage of the policy making process and will duly take its Opinion and other contributions received into account. The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Camera Deputaților in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Valdis Dombrovskis Executive Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič Vice-President