



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 28.1.2020  
C(2020) 341 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 in order to provide financial assistance to Member States to cover serious financial burden inflicted on them following a withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union without an agreement {COM(2019) 399 final} of 4 September 2019.*

*The proposal was part of a whole package of contingency measures presented by the Commission in preparation for the possibility of a no-deal Brexit. The proposed amendment of the Solidarity Fund was not intended to liken a no-deal Brexit to a natural disaster. The objective was rather to make additional funding available in a one-off exercise in 2020 to help Member States and businesses confront a singular event. It would not have jeopardised the functioning of the Solidarity Fund for natural disasters.*

*Both the European Parliament and the Council held initial discussions on the proposal but have since not pursued it further.*

*While a no-deal Brexit can still not be entirely excluded, following the United Kingdom's general election the European Commission is hopeful that the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated between the European Union and United Kingdom will be swiftly ratified in time for the latter to withdraw from the former in an orderly manner.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Elisa Ferreira  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Teodor-Viorel MELESCANU  
President of the Senat  
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