



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.5.2020
C(2020) 3361 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument {COM(2020) 23 final}.

The Commission overall very much welcomes the Senat's broad support for the proposal. The Commission also takes note of the concerns expressed by the Senat on the possible risk of delaying the final adoption of the overall legal framework for cohesion policy, which could in turn delay the implementation of programmes. The Commission, however, considers that this risk is largely mitigated by the limited number of legal provisions proposed, their clarity and the overall political support expressed by the co-legislators on climate neutrality objectives - the Just Transition Fund will play a noticeable role in this regard.

The Just Transition Fund constitutes one of the three pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism, which aims at providing targeted support to the territories the most negatively impacted by the transition towards climate neutrality.

The Commission is convinced that the proposal provides a solid basis for the negotiations to come. At the same time, we are currently faced with an unprecedented worldwide crisis. We need a coordinated European response and the EU budget must be at its core. This underlines the need for a swift agreement on a strong and flexible next Multiannual Financial Framework, capable of responding to the challenge that Europe faces.

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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,

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Vice-President

Elisa Ferreira
Member of the Commission