

**Opinion of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies**

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

**Enhancing the accession process – A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans**

**COM(2020) 57**

Chamber of Deputies

- supports the strengthening of the accession process and the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries, aimed at giving credibility to the EU and affirming the overall role of the EU; agrees with the European Commission's assessment that the enlargement policy and the European perspective are an instrument that responds to common political, economic and security interests; Points out that the efficiency of the enlargement methodology should not delay ongoing accession negotiations and decisions to open negotiations with Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia;

- supports informing citizens of the countries of the region about accession negotiations, establishing a medium- and long-term theme of meetings at administrative and political level, and achieving an unequivocal and explicit high-level commitment of all EU Member States;

- recalls the beneficial role of formal and non-formal education in supporting fundamental reforms in the areas of democracy, the rule of law and the economy and in aligning with basic European values;

- supports the gradual integration of countries in the region into EU policies, markets and programmes, increasing funding and investment, particularly at local level, and connectivity between small and medium-sized enterprises in the region and EU countries, in particular those that joined after 2007;

- supports the strengthening of external cooperation between the EU and the countries of the region;

- underlines Romania's ability to support the EU's enlargement process in the Western Balkans.