



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2020) 7497 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion 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 final} of 5 February 2020.

The Commission appreciates that the Camera Deputaților decided to scrutinise this Communication and welcomes its support for its aims.

The Commission welcomes the Council's endorsement of the Commission Communication in March. A credible accession perspective is the key incentive and driver of transformation in the region and, thus, enhances our collective security and prosperity. It is a key tool to promote democracy, rule of law and the respect for fundamental rights, which are also the main engines of economic integration and the essential anchor for fostering regional reconciliation and stability. Maintaining and enhancing this policy is, therefore, indispensable for the EU's credibility and for the EU's influence in the region and beyond, especially at times of heightened geopolitical competition.

To inject further dynamism into the negotiating process, the Commission proposed to group the negotiating chapters into six thematic clusters. Clustering chapters will allow a stronger focus on core sectors in the political dialogue and provide an improved framing for higher-level political engagement. It will also allow for identification of the most important and urgent reforms per sector. This will give overall reform processes more traction on the ground by better incentivising sectoral reforms in the interests of people and businesses.

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The Commission remains fully committed to continue supporting the candidate countries and potential candidates in their reform efforts. The implementation of these reforms will allow them to progress on their European paths.

The Commission will also continue its communication and information activities, including in EU Member States, where it is primarily the responsibility of the Member States to inform their citizens and provide them with the facts about the strategic opportunities and challenges of the process.

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*

*Olivér Várhelyi
Member of the Commission*