



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, June 18, 2020

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the SENATE of ROMANIA

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

The Romanian Senate examined 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, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 1).

Based on the report of May 15, 2020 of the Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of June 12, 2020

- 1) Welcomes:
 - a) the political agreement of the EU Council of 24 March 2020, which announces the opening of the accession negotiations with Northern Macedonia and Albania, considered to be a result of the reform processes of the two candidate countries, but also of the efforts submitted to conclude the Prespa Agreement;
 - b) the continuation of the enlargement process, as a reformative one for the EU acceding states.
- 2) Notes that opening the accession negotiations on thematic clusters rather than clearly defined chapters may generate the risk that particular political interests of certain Member States could influence these clusters within the political dialogue.
- 3) Appreciates that:
 - a) a balanced approach between the political and technical dimension of the process is needed. The progress of the candidates and the advancement to the next stages must continue to be determined by the fulfilment of objective and clear criteria;
 - b) in relation to the most advanced candidates (Montenegro and Serbia), it is necessary to ensure predictability, full preservation of the progress made so far and avoidance its demoting by applying the new methodology;

- c) the new methodology must support the enlargement process, its political efficiency and its progressiveness, rather than become a barrier to negotiating states.

p. President of the Senate
Robert - Marius CAZANCIUC

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke on the left, a vertical stroke crossing it, and a large, sweeping curve on the right.