



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, June 21, 2020

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the SENATE of ROMANIA

**on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
Coronavirus Response
Using every available euro in every way possible to protect lives and livelihoods
COM (2020) 143 final**

The Romanian Senate examined the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Coronavirus Response - Using every available euro in every way possible to protect lives and livelihoods - COM (2020) 143 final, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 1).

Taking into account the report of April 29, 2020 of the Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of June 12, 2020

1. Notes that:
 - a) the plan for the areas concerned is welcome, but requires speed of response, administrative effort at the national level, as well as an urgency of the political agreement of the states for adequate funding;
 - b) the flexibility of funding and the transfer between and within European programs is only an immediate measure, with short-term effects and complicated to manage in practice.
2. Reiterates the views expressed on the first package of measures:
 - a) there is a need for a joint relaunch program and a system of financing this process that does not widen the economic gap between Member States, in particular between creditor and debtor states; this gap is currently fuelled by the use of financial instruments in the program financing;
 - b) in the absence of appropriate measures, the current crisis will lead to an even greater concentration of wealth and a deepening of differences within our societies and between Member States;

- c) the attention of the European Commission and our governments must be directed towards citizens, small and medium-sized enterprises, public goods and services. Large companies in the private sector will therefore have the market advantage of a demand that will support their activity relaunch;
 - d) this epidemic confirms the insufficient resources of the European budget; the solutions adopted, although welcome, are based on a transfer of funds from one objective to another, without the initial objectives having been achieved. In the process of reconstructing the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, this reality must be taken into account;
 - e) a system of own resources based on the taxation of large corporations with global coverage in the field of information technology and business based on its use is absolutely necessary; the most appropriate form could be a royalty calculated according to the amount of information that these companies extract and use.
3. Requests that:
- a) the European institutions to adopt economic, social and political measures appropriate to the gravity of the crisis and the objective of consolidating the European Union, following those already adopted;
 - b) The Government of Romania, through the responsible institutions, especially the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of European Funds, to analyse the measures proposed by the European Commission, the effects and the opportunity to implement each one at national level, in order to maximize benefits and reduce the risks in financing the policy for combating the epidemic and its effects.

p. President of the Senate
Robert-Marius CAZANCIUC

