



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.8.2020
C(2020) 5932 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Communication “Coronavirus Response – Using every available euro in every way possible to protect lives and livelihood {COM(2020) 143 final}”.

The Commission fully agrees that the depth and the breadth of this crisis require a response unprecedented in speed, but also in solidarity.

For the Commission, saving lives and supporting livelihoods in every possible way in these times of acute crisis is paramount. The Commission is using all the instruments at its disposal to deal with the pandemic, for the benefit of its citizens. In this regard, funds will be re-directed to where they are most urgently needed, and transfers between funds, as well as between categories of regions and between policy objectives, will be made possible. Moreover, co-financing requirements will be abandoned, administration will be simplified, as Member States are already using all their means to fight the crisis.

On 21 July, the EU’s Heads of State and Government reached a landmark political agreement on the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and the Recovery Package NextGenerationEU. Its centerpiece is the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which will provide large-scale financial support for reforms and investments undertaken by Member States. It aims to mitigate the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to make the EU economies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges of the green and digital transitions.

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The Commission is committed to protect citizens and mitigate the pandemic's severely negative socio-economic consequences. The Commission's bold measures are intended at cushioning the economic blow in order for the EU economy to be ready to restart. To achieve this, keeping people in jobs and businesses running is crucial. The new solidarity instrument (SURE) provides loans to countries that need it to ensure that workers receive an income and businesses keep their staff.

The Commission agrees that efforts should be targeted towards the most affected sectors and geographical parts of Europe. Not all Member States are going to emerge in the same shape, for different reasons. The severity of the pandemic and countries' economic structures, such as exposure to tourism, played a role. Above all, some can afford to take more measures to support workers, households and businesses, while others cannot. In the spirit of the European solidarity, the Commission is joining forces with Member States to save lives and protect livelihoods.

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,

*Dubravka ŠUICA
Member of the Commission*