



## Parlamentul României Senat

*Bucharest, 24 March 2021*

Courtesy translation

### OPINION of the SENATE of ROMANIA

**on the WHITE PAPER on levelling the playing field as regards foreign subsidies**

**COM(2020) 253 final**

The Romanian Senate examined the WHITE PAPER on levelling the playing field as regards foreign subsidies - COM(2020) 253 final – according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon Protocol (no. 1).

Taking into account the report of the Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of March 8, 2021

- 1) Welcomes the White Paper on levelling the playing field as regards foreign subsidies and hopes that the results of the consultation will find the most appropriate ways to address and counteract the distortions created by foreign subsidies.
- 2) Notes that the White Paper on levelling the playing field as regards foreign subsidies does not take into account the changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, currently suspending many regulations that defined the relationship between the state and companies. Therefore, tax aid and facilities which currently have no overview have been granted in all Member States.
- 3) Emphasises that subsequent regulations in this area must not disrupt the internal market in the form of discontinuance of supply chains for Community economic operators.
- 4) Points out that international economic regulatory organizations (World Trade Organization and others) need a reform process to better fulfil their responsibilities for which they were established.
- 5) Requests clarification of some aspects regarding:
  - a) the opportunity of setting a ceiling from which it can be considered a distortion of competition;
  - b) the need to differentiate between low and high subsidies that may distort competition;
  - c) the term “maximum 3 months” which would create blockages in the procurement initiated by the contracting authorities;
  - d) allocating a maximum period of 1 month for investigations by the competent supervisory authority;
  - e) lifting the suspension of the award procedure in certain specific circumstances;

- f) the need, in the event that the supervisory authority concludes that there is a foreign grant, to communicate not only the conclusion of the contracting authority but also to propose a recommendation to the evaluation committee to allow the tenderer to participate in the procedure or to exclude it;
- g) conducting the investigation expeditiously.

**President of the Senate**

**Anca Dana DRAGU**

