



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 13.8.2020
C(2020) 5600 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Joint Proposal for a Recommendation of the Council to the European Council on the adoption of a decision identifying the strategic objectives of the Union to be pursued through the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 {JOIN(2020) 6 final}.

It is pleased that the Senat appreciates and supports that human rights play a great role in EU common foreign and security policy.

It is in the strategic interest of the EU to take global leadership on human rights and democracy.

In this Joint Proposal, the High Representative and the Commission expressed an ambition to strengthen the EU's capacity to promote its values and strategic interests around the world and to use the clauses foreseen in the Treaties to achieve it, including the possibility of a European Council Decision enabling qualified majority voting on implementing decisions.

This is in line with the Commission's Political Guidelines and with the Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 adopted by the European Council.

The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020 - 2024 identifies the objectives to be pursued and the concrete measures that should be taken to implement the Action Plan.

At present, negotiations are taking place with Member States in the Council, so it is important not to prejudge the precise content of the Recommendation to the European Council and of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020 – 2024.

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The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senat in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Nicolas Schmit
Member of the Commission*