



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 13.8.2020
C(2020) 5596 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Joint Communication from the Commission and the High Representative on the 'Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all' of 18 March 2020 {JOIN(2020) 7 final}.

The Commission is pleased that the Senat fully supports the policy orientation for the future Eastern Partnership as set out in the Communication. This echoes the position of the Member States of the European Union, as expressed in the Council Conclusions of 11 May, and reiterated during the Leaders Videoconference of 18 June, where the future approach for the policy was also endorsed by all Eastern Partnership Leaders.

The Joint Communication represents the result of a structured consultation announced on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership in May 2019, and aimed at renewing and upgrading the policy for the years to come. The Joint Communication captures the reflections and positions of a significant number of stakeholders, including EU Member States and partner countries.

Good governance and common values, as well as democracy and human rights, will remain at the heart of the Eastern Partnership policy. The Commission will continue supporting fully the partner countries in their drive for reforms, and will keep applying the incentive-based approach, what we call the 'more for more' principle. The European Union and Eastern Partnership countries will also look for further ways of sectoral approximation and economic development, and will continue supporting partner countries in their current fight against the COVID-19 pandemic not only by strengthening their health systems but also by fostering their economic recovery.

The Commission is pleased to inform the Senat that in the months to come, a renewed set of Eastern Partnership deliverables will be developed jointly with EU Member States and partner countries, and will be presented at the next Eastern Partnership Summit in March 2021. They will be instrumental in covering the new priorities set out in the Joint Communication, for instance in sectors like the environment, digitalisation, and health.

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The Eastern Partnership remains high on the agenda of the European Union's foreign policy. The Commission would like to thank Romania for its support and contribution to the Eastern Partnership, and counts on Romania's continued support to this successful policy in the coming years.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the Institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Senat in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Nicolas Schmit
Member of the Commission*