



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Ms Anca Dana DRAGU
President of the Senat
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3
sector 5
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Joint Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – A new Agenda for the Mediterranean {JOIN(2021) 2 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senat's support for the Joint Communication on a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood and its Economic and Investment Plan. The Commission and the High Representative adopted a new, ambitious and innovative Agenda for the Mediterranean, drawing for the first time on the full EU toolbox in order to relaunch the EU's cooperation with the Southern Neighbourhood and support efforts to tap into the region's potential. The post-COVID-19 recovery offers a unique opportunity for Europe and the Mediterranean region to commit to a common and people-centred agenda and the actions necessary for its implementation. To this end, the Economic and Investment Plan will be the blueprint for our action over the period 2021-2027.

We also recall the adoption of Council Conclusions on 19 April 2021¹, which reaffirmed Member States' determination to renew and further strengthen the EU's strategic partnership with its Southern Neighbourhood Partners.

Following the adoption of the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)/Global Europe instrument², we confirm that a balanced

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7931-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

approach will be taken between the Southern and Eastern parts of the Neighbourhood. The Commission will be consulting with Member States for the development of both political priorities and multi-annual programming towards its neighbours.

Lastly, as envisaged in article 20 of the NDICI/Global Europe regulation, additional support may be allocated to partner countries and used as an incentive towards reforms on the basis of each partners' performance and progress towards democracy, good governance and rule of law, which includes cooperation with civil society, human rights, cooperation on migration, economic governance and reforms, in particular those reforms which were jointly agreed.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Olivér Várhelyi
Member of the Commission*

² Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (Text with EEA relevance),
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947>.