



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.5.2019  
C(2019) 3598 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Národná Rada for its Opinion on the Commission Work Programme for 2019 {COM(2018) 800 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the thorough analysis of the Commission Work Programme for 2019 made by the Národná Rada in its Opinion. It particularly welcomes the broad support for the new initiatives set out in Annex 1 of the Commission Work Programme, several of them highlighted as 'high priority' by the Národná Rada.*

*The Commission takes note of the position expressed by the Národná Rada on an extension of qualified majority voting at Union level. The Commission considers that a debate should be launched on the use of qualified majority voting to allow more efficient decision-making in key fields such as energy, external relations, taxation and social policies. More efficient decision-making in these fields will enable the Union's single market legislation to keep pace with economic and societal developments and empower the European Union to become a stronger global actor, better able to shape global events and to shoulder international responsibilities.*

*The Commission welcomes the broad support for the priority pending proposals listed in Annex 3 of the Commission Work Programme of 2019. This list allowed the Commission, together with the European Parliament and the Council, to keep strong focus on finding agreement on those initiatives needed to deliver positive change across the ten priorities of the Commission for 2014-2019. Thanks to these focused efforts, agreement was found on 77 of the proposals listed in Annex 3 of the Commission Work Programme 2019 by the end of the Parliamentary mandate.*

*The Commission also welcomes the strong support of the Národná Rada to agree on the proposals for the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and takes due account of the observations put forward by the Národná Rada on these proposals. The December*

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*2018 European Council agreed to the shared objective of reaching an agreement on the future long-term budget in the European Council in autumn 2019. At a time of change for the Union and in an increasingly turbulent world, a timely agreement would show that the Union is united and ready to act. The progress made so far constitutes a solid basis for the final stage of negotiations.*

*The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Národná Rada and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*