



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 7.10.2013  
C(2013) 6376 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Državni Zbor for its Opinion on the Annual enlargement package 2012 {COM(2012) 600 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.*

*The Commission agrees with the Državni Zbor on the importance of the EU enlargement process as a strong incentive for the implementation of the necessary political, economic and legislative reforms in the countries concerned. Enlargement countries face many challenges in these fields, and maintaining the momentum of enlargement is a powerful tool to address them.*

*At the same time, as pointed out by the Državni Zbor, the 'own merits' principle is key to preserving the credibility of the enlargement process. The pace at which each country advances towards membership depends on its performance in meeting the necessary conditions. As regards credibility, the Commission has repeatedly emphasized that credibility is ensured through rigorous accession conditionalities encouraging far-reaching reforms, with the EU delivering on commitments once the countries have met the established criteria.*

*The Commission also notes the position of the Državni Zbor on intensifying communication in the enlargement countries, in particular on recent developments in the Union. In view of the far-reaching changes in the field of economic and monetary union and to better prepare the countries concerned for fulfilling obligations in this field, the Commission is working towards better associating the enlargement countries in this area. More generally, the Commission, with the help of the EU Delegations in the countries concerned, will continue its efforts towards improving communication in the enlargement countries. At the same time, the Commission is of the view that Member States and enlargement countries have the main role in the information and communication efforts towards their citizens, with government messages complementing communication from the EU institutions. Political leaders in enlargement countries need to explain how the decisions they take on reforms are related not only to the accession process but are inherently valuable for the better functioning of the State.*

*Mr Janko VEBER  
President of the Državni Zbor  
Šubičeva, 4  
SI – 1000 LJUBLJANA*



*The Commission takes good note of the views of the Državni Zbor on the individual enlargement countries and the support expressed for the next steps in this regard.*

*The Commission would like to thank the Državni Zbor for its engagement with the enlargement process and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

