



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.2.2018
C(2018) 866 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado for their Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Framework for the free movement of non-personal data in the European Union {COM(2017) 495 final}.

This proposal represents one of the sixteen policy actions announced by the Digital Single Market strategy of the Commission, which is a broader package of ambitious measures designed to unleash the potential of the Union's internal market for digital goods and services. Stimulating the European data economy is an important element of this strategy, and enhancing the free movement of data in the European Union is an important precondition in this regard.

The proposal on the free flow of non-personal data will lead to economic growth and job creation for European Union citizens by providing legal certainty that the Union's internal market freedoms also apply to the storage and processing of non-personal data. More specifically, the proposal will make it easier to do business in multiple locations in the Union by avoiding the need to duplicate Information Technology infrastructure for businesses that operate in more than one Member State. This allows for economies of scale and will make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups to scale up and enter new markets across borders.

The Commission is pleased that the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado recognise that the proposal contributes to completing the Digital Single Market. The Opinion of the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations with the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, and will inform these discussions. The Commission is hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

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The Commission highly appreciates the Opinion of the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado and places it into perspective of the excellent contribution of Spain in the digital realm. Just one example of this is Spain's firm support to the European Grid Infrastructure. This project with its Federated Cloud is positively contributing to the advance of science in Europe in many crucial domains, providing scientists with access to one of top most powerful distributed computing platforms in the world. Spanish support has been crucial in this regard.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*