



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 21.3.2018  
C(2018) 1578 final*

*Dear Presidents,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado for their Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/73/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas {COM(2017) 660 final}.*

*As recognised by the Opinion, the proposal contributes to the completion of the internal market for energy in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and thereby to the project of creating the Energy Union.*

*Once adopted, the proposal will ensure the applicability of the regulatory framework for the Union's internal gas market to gas transmission lines connecting the Union with third countries, which currently do not explicitly fall under the scope of Directive 2009/73/EC. This in turn will contribute to a further integration of gas markets and to the security of gas supply in the Union.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado share the view that action at European Union level as envisaged in the proposal is required to achieve the objective of an integrated market for gas in the Union.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete  
Member of the Commission*

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