



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 22.11.2018
C(2018) 7056 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 {COM(2018) 385 final}.

Launched in 1992, the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action is one of the spearheads of European Union environmental and climate funding. It has financed over 4,500 projects. The Programme for the Environment and Climate Action has played a significant role in the implementation of major European Union environmental legislation including the Habitats and Birds Directives.

The Commission is proposing to increase the budget of the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action by almost 60%, up to EUR 5.450 billion. This corresponds to the largest proportional increase for European Union funding programmes.

The Commission acknowledges the need to find a swift agreement on the European Union budget so that implementation can start as soon as possible. For this reason, the Commission has presented all the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework already in the end of May and beginning of June this year. This should support ensuring predictability and continuity of funding.

The Commission welcomes the conclusion of the Cortes Generales that the proposal complies with the principle of subsidiarity, and is looking forward to continuing political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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First Vice-President*

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Member of the Commission*

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