



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
 Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II
Romania

Brussels,
 REGIO.DDG.E.2/CR

Dear Mrs. Moraru,

In response to your letter 617/25.02.2020, I forward you for reference the main points of the letter from our Director General, Mr. Marc Lemaître to a citizen request for clarifications on your potential conflict of interest, in the light of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.

1. *As a preliminary remark, we note that the decision on the future design of the Romanian management and control system, including a possible regionalisation of part of it, is part of an internal discussion in Romania and lies with the Romanian Government as a whole. Any such decision will have to be further negotiated and agreed with the European Commission in the frame of the partnership agreement. The European Commission will take into account lessons learned from previous programming periods and the need to ensure the most effective and efficient system. We understand that the Romanian Government has not yet adopted any formal decision on the 2021-2027 programmes' architecture for the implementation of EU Funds;*
2. *We also understand that the initial proposal for a regionalisation of part of the management and control system and the establishment of a separate Transport Operational Programme was flagged in the beginning of the informal dialogue between the Romanian authorities and the European Commission. In fact, the initial proposal was signalled already in May and June 2019 and further developed during the autumn of 2019. This all happened at the time of the previous Government that ended its mandate on 4 November 2019. We note that neither Minister Bolos nor State Secretary Moraru were members or had any stake in the previous Government;*
3. *Based on the information and the evidence provided, we have no factual element to conclude that Minister Bolos or State Secretary Moraru have exercised any direct or indirect influence on the current proposal for the reorganization of the Romanian management and control system for the implementation of the*

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structural funds. Therefore, we cannot identify in the present case any potential conflict of their own interests with those of the Union. There is no evidence to suggest that any action has been taken by the concerned persons that would favour their future interests.

In conclusion:

- *The Commission has not identified any evidence of active involvement of the concerned persons in the ongoing process of programmes' design modification for the 2021-2027 period that could be contrary to the principle of segregation of duties or the obligation of avoiding conflicts of interest situations.*

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

Carsten RASMUSSEN
Head of Unit

cc: Mr. Marcel Boloş, Ministry of European Funds
Mrs. Vittoria Alliata di Villafranca, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy,