



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13 NOV. 2009
C/2009/ 8375

Dear Secretary General,

I wish to thank the Senate of the Italian Republic for their favourable opinion and their valuable remarks sent by letter of 29 July 2009, concerning the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Eastern Partnership" {COM(2008)823}.

With reference to the observations of the Senate, the European Commission has the honour to inform you about the following:

The European Union needs to be able to show solidarity and offer our partners more in key areas such as the (legitimate) mobility of persons. The Commission believes in a very strong functional link between greater mobility and greater security. The two must go hand in hand.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a framework for the Eastern European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries. Russia has opted for developing its relationship outside the ENP. The EaP is developed in parallel to the Strategic Partnership between EU and the Russian Federation.

The additional resources that would be made available for the EaP would not mean that anything is "taken away" from our Southern neighbours (the resources for which remain much larger in nominal terms). At the same time as we implement the Eastern Partnership we will continue to intensify relations with our neighbours to the South, based on their commitment to reform. The net result will see the allocation for the South rising over the period 2010-2013 as planned, and well ahead of the East in global terms.

I look forward to continuing this fruitful exchange of information.

Yours sincerely

Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission

Dott. Antonio Malaschini
Segretario Generale
Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama
00186 Roma