



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 09.04.2014  
C(2014) 2270 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission thanks the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision and quality of statistics for the macroeconomic imbalances procedure {COM(2013) 342 final}. The Commission highly appreciates the support of the Senato della Repubblica for the objectives and content of this Proposal which is crucial for ensuring the quality of statistics in the context of the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure (MIP).*

*The Proposal aims at establishing a robust statistical monitoring system covering data quality, the compilation and transmission of data and the reporting/communication of the data to the different stakeholders and to the European Parliament and the Council.*

*For that purpose, the proposal sets out the rules governing the way the statistical data relevant for the MIP are provided. These rules relate to the compilation, quality monitoring and release of the relevant indicators. The main objective is to develop a robust quality monitoring procedure in order to ensure the highest quality of the MIP relevant data.*

*The Commission had extensive consultations with Member States in the preparation of the Proposal in order to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the objectives, that these objectives can be achieved and that they comply with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.*

*The Commission takes note of the suggestion of the Senato della Repubblica on clarifying Article 9, and in particular paragraph 4(a), so that the detailed criteria for fining a Member State and the relevant procedures are set out in the text of the Regulation and not left to delegated acts. Nevertheless, the Commission would like to explain its proposal to establish these elements by way of delegated acts.*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO  
President of the  
Senato della Repubblica  
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*The Commission considers the proposed delegated acts necessary to supplement the rules on calculating the fines for manipulation of statistics as well as the rules on the procedure to be followed by the Commission for the investigation of such actions. The basic conditions for imposing a fine and the related procedures follow explicitly from the Regulation itself through the proposed Article 9. However, supplementing measures consisting in provisions on how to calculate the actual amount of the related fine, how to conduct the investigations, and how to guarantee Member States' right of defence can more expeditiously and effectively be adopted by the Commission in delegated acts in full respect of the objectives, content and scope defined in the Regulation. The Council and the European Parliament will as usual be able to scrutinise any delegated acts adopted by the Commission through the non-objection procedure.*

*This was the approach chosen also in the context of the excessive deficit procedure. Indeed, the proposed Article 9 closely mirrors that of Article 8 in Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 on the effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area, to which the Senato della Repubblica itself refers in its Opinion. The latter Regulation thus contains a comparable mandate for the Commission to adopt delegated acts, which resulted in a Commission Delegated Decision being adopted in 2012<sup>1</sup>.*

*Finally, the Commission would like to explain that the staff-bid introduced by the Commission reflects the policy of the Commission to reduce the total number of posts but at the same time redirecting posts to high-priority areas like the European Semester inside the Economic Governance Framework.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Delegated Decision 2012/678/EU of 29.6.2012 on investigations and fines related to the manipulation of statistics as referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area, OJ L 306, 6.11.2012, p. 21-25.