



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23.2.2017  
C(2017) 1176 final

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 for a resilient Energy Union and to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation No 525/2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change {COM(2016) 482 final}.*

*This proposal forms part of a package of three legal proposals under the Energy Union which together would ensure that the EU is on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions domestically by at least 40% by 2030 and to fulfil its commitments under the Paris Agreement. This package of measures would help Europe in preparing for the transition to a low-carbon economy. A wide range of policies will support citizens and businesses to achieve this transition, including policies on climate and energy, agriculture and transport, innovation and investment.*

*The Commission agrees with the Senato della Repubblica that Italy can achieve the greenhouse gas target proposed and that Europe must seize the opportunities linked to a gradual switch to a low-carbon economy. The Union and its Member States are jointly working in parallel to achieve the global climate objective and to ensure that emission levels are curbed in other parts of the world too.*

*In line with the guidance provided by the European Council in 2014, the proposed 2030 target for Italy has indeed been determined solely on the basis of the gross domestic product per capita. The Commission takes seriously the concerns raised with respect to potential industrial competitiveness impacts of a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita based target. However, the industry sector is only responsible for around 10% of Italian emissions in effort sharing sectors and it is for Italy to decide on which sectors it wishes to focus its efforts. In addition, there are also various flexibilities proposed which help achieving the target, including banking and borrowing within the period 2021-2030, transfers between Member States to enable an EU wide cost-efficient target achievement and the use for Italy of up to 11.5 million tons credits from the land use, land-use change and forestry sector to compensate for the lower mitigation potential of agriculture.*

*Mr Giuseppe Marinello  
Chair of the Committee on Land Use,  
Environment, Environmental Assets  
of the Senato della Repubblica  
Piazza Madama, 1  
IT – 00186 ROMA*

*cc. Mr Pietro Grasso  
President of the Senato della Repubblica  
Piazza Madama, 1  
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*The Commission acknowledges the concerns raised with respect to the perceived disproportionality of the costs for Italy compared to the EU average. The cost estimates referred to are 0.17-0.67% of the GDP for Italy compared to 0.15-0.54% of the GDP for the EU average and relate to the achievement of 40% greenhouse gas emission reductions in the EU overall. The cost range for Italy places it in the medium tier of all Member States<sup>1</sup>.*

*The proposal presented by the Commission is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> See SWD(2014)15, table 34.