



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.9.2012
C(2012) 6230 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for the Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020 {COM (2011) 709 final}.

The proposal is in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy as good health contributes to the objectives of smart and inclusive growth.

The Health for Growth Programme is to be implemented in close cooperation with the Member States, with the objective of encouraging innovation in healthcare and increasing the sustainability of health systems, of improving the health of EU citizens and protecting them from cross-border health threats.

The proposal aims at striking the right balance between what is achievable within the limited period of seven years and the proposed budget of € 446 million. The budget attribution per objective as proposed in the financial statement is only indicative. However, the indicative 9% attributed to objective 4, combating cross-border health threats, takes into consideration that actions in this area were already funded with a similar budget percentage during the previous two health programmes 2003-2007 and 2008-2013.

Moreover, in the area of cross-border health threats, there is a tradition of cooperation with the Member States that resulted in 2004 in the creation of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control which is responsible for the epidemiological surveillance and risk assessment of communicable diseases. In addition, the Health for Growth Programme will support the implementation of the Commission proposal for a Decision on cross-border serious threats to health {COM (2011) 866 final}, once adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

I hope these clarifications address the comments and concerns raised in the opinion of the Senát. I am looking forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
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of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
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