



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22. 10. 2013
C(2013) 6980 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Riigikogu for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management {COM(2013) 133 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission welcomes the Riigikogu's support for the proposal's general objective as well as its assessment that the proposal complies with the principle of subsidiarity.

In reply to the concerns raised by the Riigikogu, the Commission would like to make the following comments:

The proposed Directive leaves Member States significant room for discretion as to how its objectives should be reached. It foresees only procedural obligations and does not affect the content of maritime spatial plans or coastal management strategies.

The Commission stresses that cooperation at the international level will enable marine spatial planning and integrated coastal management to ensure the involvement of third countries related to the given maritime area. The proposed Directive would allow Member States to choose the format and the means of such cooperation with third countries, as long as every effort is made towards coordination of their plans and strategies with that of the third country.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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