

Letter from: SPEAKER OF THE ITALIAN CHAMBER OF  
DEPUTIES,  
Rome

To: JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO  
President of the European Commission  
Brussels

Date: 7 May 2009

Reference: 2009/0013343/Gen/TN

This is to inform you that, at its session held on 22 April 2009, the Chamber of Deputies approved the attached Resolutions No 6-00017 (Gottardo) and No 6-00019 (Gozi), following an examination of the 14<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee's report on the European Commission's 2009 Legislative and Work Programme and on the 18-month programme of the Council of the European Union presented by the French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies (Document XVIII No 10).

**TEXT OF ACT**

**Act of the Chamber**

**Parliamentary Resolution 6-00017**

presented by

**ISIDORO GOTTARDO**

text of

**Monday 20 April 2009, session No 162**

The Chamber of Deputies,

having examined the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme 2009 and the 18-month programme of the Council of the European Union presented by the French, Czech and Swedish presidencies;

having regard to the report of the 14th Standing Committee and of the reports approved by the sector committees;

believing that:

a) the 2009 legislative programme of the European Commission is – also in view of the imminent end of the European legislature – appropriately focused on a small number of aims and initiatives, giving particular priority to the response to the global economic and financial crisis;

b) an examination of the instruments of the legislative programme confirms that the European Union is not able to respond adequately when faced with issues whose complexity and global scale make action by Member States on their own insufficient and require intervention at a European level, whereas it intervenes with excessive detail in other sectors in which national, regional or local action would be more suitable;

c) the relaunch of European integration therefore presupposes 'more Europe, more subsidiarity';

d) to that end, it is vital that the Lisbon Treaty should enter into force, enabling the necessary changes to be made to the institutional structure, principles, instruments and operational procedures of the European Union, while at the same time introducing stricter rules for allocating and exercising competences at a European or national level;

e) it is also necessary to reinforce the coordination of economic policies and provide the European Union with adequate financial resources to pursue aims and actions with high value added for Europe;

emphasising that:

- a) the examination of the European Union's legislative planning instruments is an extremely important process to enable an early and effective intervention of parliament in the formative stages of the European Union's policy and decision-making;
- b) a further strengthening of parliament's contribution would be guaranteed by the introduction, via the appropriate regulatory changes, of a session devoted to the Community in the formative phase each year – to be held in the first few months of the year – combining an examination of the legislative programme and of the other programme instruments of the European Union with the review of the annual report on Italian participation in the European Union;
- c) it is also necessary, as a way of strengthening direct political dialogue with the European Commission, to give careful consideration to introducing procedures into the regulations to enable the parliamentary bodies to pass resolutions or make observations specifically and directly intended for the Commission;
- d) in that context, the enactment of provisions of the Lisbon Treaty concerning the role of national parliaments must be a matter of maximum priority for the Chamber of Deputies;
- e) of particular importance is the early warning procedure for subsidiarity controls under which Italian regional legislative assemblies and councils will be consulted, and the suggestions and comments made in this area by the Committee of Regions to the national parliaments will be examined,

instructs the government:

with regard to the Lisbon Treaty

- a) to assist in completing the ratification process in accordance with the constitutional rules of the individual States;
- b) to make available all necessary instruments and procedures to ensure application of the Reform Treaty as soon as it enters into force;

with regard to the economic and financial crisis:

- a) to take steps to ensure that the European Union appropriates additional resources to support employment and the recovery, also using the margin available within the upper limits of the financial perspective and own resources, as permitted by the current financial framework;
- b) to use all opportunities provided by the European Economic Recovery Plan, approved by the European Commission on 26 November 2008, and its implementing measures, ensuring in particular that production in Italy obtains an appropriate percentage of loans from the European Investment Bank, which should at least be equal to Italy's share of the Bank's capital;

c) also to ensure the further reinforcement on a European and national level of measures already taken in response to the crisis to support small and medium-sized enterprises, also by a more flexible application of State aid rules;

with regard to economic governance and the Lisbon Strategy:

a) to take action to define a new strategy for growth and jobs after 2010, incorporating a small number of shared objectives of genuinely high priority, and identifying precisely the European and national financial resources to be used to achieve them;

b) to fully involve national parliaments and local bodies, also through the Committee of the Regions, in drawing up integrated guidelines for growth and jobs, national reform programmes, and other instruments for economic governance, and for the Lisbon Strategy;

with regard to employment policy:

a) to promote employment policies that combine flexible working practices, social protection and job security, greater social equity, and a reduction in regional disparities, and to protect the weaker sectors, in accordance with the aims of the Lisbon Strategy;

b) to work towards the adoption of further measures at a European level to foster crossborder mobility of young people and their integration in the world of work, and to consolidate and further develop active policies for the inclusion of disabled persons in the work environment;

with regard to the financial markets:

a) to support rapid approval of legislative proposals in the areas of bank capital requirements, the solvency of insurance companies and undertakings for collective investment in negotiable securities, rules for credit rating agencies, financial supervision and accounting requirements;

b) to support the preparation of further measures to improve the legislation applicable to all financial undertakings, to the principal investors in the capital and derivatives markets, and to revise international accounting standards;

c) to promote effective convergence in the regulation and supervision of financial markets, also through the concentration of certain functions at a European level in one authority, several authorities or a system of authorities, on the basis of recommendations from the High-Level Expert Group on EU Financial Supervision established by the European Commission (known as the 'Larosière Group');

with regard to fiscal policy:

- a) to take steps to achieve a minimum coordination of national tax systems to ensure that fiscal competition between Member States, at a time of global crisis, does not degenerate into conduct that is damaging or has an adverse effect on the overall competitiveness of the European economy and on budgetary policy;
- b) and for that purpose, to support initiatives of the European Commission to introduce a common consolidated basis for corporate taxation, also evaluating the possibility of introducing common minimum thresholds for the taxation of company profits;
- c) to promote rationalisation of the rules on value added tax by a gradual abolition of the derogations granted to individual Member States and the definition of a single list of goods and services taxable at reduced rates;

with regard to the European budget review:

- a) to provide parliament in good time with detailed data and information on the financial impact for Italy of the various possible scenarios for reform of the European Union's revenue and expenditure;
- b) to ensure, during the debate currently underway and the subsequent negotiations, that the following aims are given due consideration:
  - 1) to redefine in a clear and transparent manner the link between policy priorities and expenditure by the European Union, and to reaffirm the principle of solidarity and parity among Member States;
  - 2) to give preference to solutions that concentrate Community resources on measures to foster the new priorities and strategic challenges, and in particular those concerning competitiveness, innovation, knowledge, solidarity and, above all, the regulation of migration and the control of clandestine immigration;
  - 3) to ensure that the European Union's budget allocates significant resources to those European projects and 'products' that offer the highest value added, particularly in the fields of health and research, and to infrastructure projects; European debt issues can be used for this purpose;
  - 4) to ensure that, in the post-2013 financial framework, resources are secured for the cohesion policy, maintaining the regional basis of that policy, also in the light of the express recognition in the Lisbon Treaty of the regional dimension of cohesion;
  - 5) to extend cofinancing also to sectors where it is currently not applicable, notably agriculture, in order to ensure that appropriations from the European budget produce a 'leverage' effect thereby increasing the total amount of resources available;

with regard to the area of freedom, security and justice:

- a) to contribute actively, in close collaboration with parliament, to the preparation of the new 2010-2015 programme for the area of freedom, security and justice to be adopted by the European Council in December 2009;
- b) to support initiatives of the European Commission to develop a common and shared approach to migration, fostering the greatest possible synergy between the various countries and different competent bodies, by creating a European border control system, strengthening operational cooperation and launching a new Schengen evaluation mechanism;
- c) to work towards a rapid adoption of the organised crime package and measures to improve the quality and effectiveness of the work of bodies in the administration of justice, by mutual recognition and enforcement of civil, commercial and, if possible, criminal judgments;
- d) to expand the opportunities and forums for collaboration by specialist bodies and institutions, with particular regard to those responsible for combating organised crime, terrorism, and clandestine immigration, and for border controls;

with regard to foreign policy, foreign relations and trade policy:

- a) to work towards relaunching the project for a Union for the Mediterranean, implementing the conclusions of the March 2009 European Council;
- b) to support development of the Eastern Partnership, along the lines defined by the European Council of 19-20 March 2009; however, the criteria for apportioning the financial resources of the Neighbourhood Policy – hitherto allocated one third to the Eastern Partnership and two thirds to the Mediterranean Partnership – should be maintained;
- c) to promote cooperation among local and regional bodies under the aegis of the Mediterranean Partnership, both by direct contacts and through the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (Arlem) which will be recognised as the Union's consultative body for the Mediterranean;
- d) to encourage a rapid completion of bilateral trade negotiations and the Doha Development Agenda within the World Trade Organisation;

with regard to infrastructure and trans-European networks:

- a) to encourage the European Union to devote additional financial resources to work on the trans-European transport network (TEN-T), both by using the margin available under the current

financial framework and by increasing loans and guarantees from the European Investment Bank;

b) to promote initiatives to encourage the development and installation of broadband networks in individual Member States, with particular reference to those where the digital divide is particularly acute;

with regard to the single market and business policy:

a) to work towards rapid implementation on a European and national level of the principles and measures of the Small Business Act presented by the European Commission in June 2008, and the adoption of specific rules for public tenders to take account of the particular characteristics and requirements of small and medium-sized enterprises, and of the need to promote innovation and the environment;

b) to support measures to reduce the administrative burden and to improve the general conditions for the industrial sector in order to retain a solid industrial base in the European Union;

with regard to energy policy:

a) to promote all initiatives to guarantee the security of supply and efficient use of energy, not only by defining an increasingly stable framework of relations with major suppliers for the medium and long term, but also by adopting concrete measures to promote research into innovative technologies, including the nuclear energy option, to encourage the diversification of energy sources and provide incentives for energy saving through the use of less polluting technologies with lower energy consumption;

b) to work towards the rapid approval of the proposals for energy efficiency presented by the European Commission in October 2008;

with regard to the common agricultural policy:

a) to invite the institutions of the European Union to complete the assessment of the impact of demographic trends on European agriculture, and to carry out an analysis of the consequences of the global economic crisis for agricultural markets and the rural sector, also having regard to reform of the budget of the European Union;

b) to encourage the European Union to define without delay a plan of appropriate measures to protect the rural sector from decline, thereby preserving the European Union's food

independence and increasing synergy between rural development policy and the Union's other policies, especially cohesion policy;

c) to foster completion of the bilateral trade negotiations now in progress, in order to complete the Doha Development Agenda, providing new commercial outlets for enterprises in the European Union;

with regard to culture, education and vocational training:

a) to take action to ensure that as part of the examination of the Communication on the university-business dialogue that forms part of the European Commission's legislative programme, measures and procedures are appropriately defined through which cooperation between the two sectors can be improved and intensified, identifying forms of exchange of direct experience through *ad hoc* projects and forms of partnership, also with regard to the Euro-Mediterranean area;

b) to promote the definition of a strategy of the European Union for the management of the overall European cultural sector, in order to further enhance the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to growth and jobs, as well as to sustainable development and inter-cultural dialogue;

c) to support the European Union's initiatives to develop and introduce continuous life-long learning and measures to provide further incentives to multilingualism;

d) to step up initiatives to communicate and provide information on measures of the European Union in the fields of research, education and training, culture and multilingualism;

with regard to sport:

a) to take steps to ensure that – even under existing treaties in force and, above all, after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty – the European Union, in applying its policies, and in interpreting the general principles and different provisions of the Treaty of relevance for sport, should effectively recognise the specific needs of sport;

b) to take steps, in particular, to ensure that the competent institutions of the European Union reconsider the application of the principle of free movement of athletes as affirmed in the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Communities on 15 December 1995 in case C-415/93, in order to protect the training structures of sporting organisations (referred to as 'nurseries').

(6-00017) 'Gottardo, Pescante, Formichella, Pini'.



**TEXT OF ACT**

**Act of the Chamber**

**Parliamentary Resolution 6-00019**

presented by

**SANDRO GOZI**

text of

**Wednesday 22 April 2009, session No 164**

The Chamber of Deputies,

whereas,

the 14th Standing Committee (European Union Affairs) and, for matters within their respective remits, the other permanent committees and the legislation committee have made an in-depth and detailed examination of the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme 2009 and the 18-month programme of the Council presented by the French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies, also conducting a significant number of hearings on various aspects affected by the documents examined;

the examination of the instruments of the European Union's legislative programme has proved to be an extremely important step for parliament's intervention at the formative stage of the European Union's policy and decision-making, enhancing its ability to contribute to policy options and goals and increasing its capacity to intervene meaningfully in relation to proposals not yet clearly defined or finalised;

from that standpoint, the examination of the legislative programme has provided the opportunity for a debate on the need for parliament to reform and modernise existing legislative and regulatory instruments to take account of developments in the national and European institutional framework, particularly in the light of the hoped-for entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty;

further improvements are needed in the time required to carry out the examination of draft Community instruments, which needs to be aligned with the European Union's decision-making cycle, while it is urgent to introduce a session devoted to the Community to be held in the formative phase in the first few months of each year, to define the government's policy both on aspects of a general nature and on specific issues, combining, from the outset, an examination of the legislative programme and other programme instruments of the European Union with a review of the annual report on Italian participation in the European Union;

careful consideration should also be given to the possibility of redefining the role of the 14th Standing Committee and of the other standing committees in the formative phase, and there

should be a debate on the scope of future provisions concerning the role of national parliaments, with particular regard to the early warning mechanism for subsidiarity control and consultation of Italian regional councils and legislative assemblies;

the phrase 'more Europe, more subsidiarity' encompasses the two most useful development guidelines for the construction of Europe, reflecting the concept of a federalist Europe in which States, national parliaments and governments can find their role and the space for coordinated sovereignty with the Community's decision-making process, and the increasing role of the European Parliament;

with regard to the substance of the European Commission's 2009 Legislative and Work Programme, there are both positive and negative aspects, given the gap between the gravity of the current situation facing Europe and the inadequate ability of the European Commission to provide leadership;

in particular, although there are certain encouraging aspects – such as the focus on a limited number of policy objectives, strategies and priorities – the programme is still not ambitious enough in relation to the need for a bold qualitative step change in virtually all the main policy areas (economic crisis, infrastructure, area of freedom, security and justice, and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership) and is essentially unable to provide guidance on the key decisions for the future of Europe, namely budgetary reform, coordination of national fiscal policies and economic governance, social policy, the issuance of European public debt for the construction of the major infrastructure networks, the development of a European energy policy to reduce our strategic vulnerability, the issue of common European defence, and a common policy on immigration and integration which goes beyond mere border controls;

this particular context and the opportunity represented by the economic crisis have shown – despite the generous attempt by European institutions to offer a timely and flexible response – the shortcomings both in terms of the inadequacy of Community resources available and of the 'weakness' and non-binding nature of the instruments available, which are no more than tools for coordination of economic and employment policy;

instructs the government:

to request the appropriation of a higher amount of Community funds to combat the crisis and, accordingly, to increase the national resources earmarked for development, income support and coping with the worst social consequences of the crisis, introducing the necessary administrative directives to enable national, regional and local administrations to provide financial assistance to companies in accordance with the more flexible criteria laid down in the recent communications from the European Commission in January and February 2009;

to promote effective convergence in the regulation and supervision of financial markets, also by combining a number of functions at European level in one or more regulatory authorities or in a European supervisory system, based on recommendations from the High-Level Expert Group on EU Financial Supervision established by the European Commission (known as the 'Larosière Group');

to promote an effective strengthening of financial regulation and mechanisms to manage the crisis on a global level, operating within the International Monetary Fund, Financial Stability Forum and Basel Committee;

to support the development of a unified representation of the European Union – or at least of the euro zone – in international financial institutions, particularly the International Monetary Fund;

to promote in European forums all legislative and regulatory initiatives to increase the powers of the European Parliament and to develop more binding and transparent instruments with greater effectiveness in terms of the convergence of the economic and fiscal policies of individual States;

to support, in the debate on the reform of the European Union's budget, the need to focus expenditure on objectives with high value added for Europe, such as competitiveness, innovation, knowledge, solidarity and the regulation of migration;

to safeguard, in the post-2013 financial framework, resources for the cohesion policy, maintaining its regional basis;

to ensure, also, that the European Union's budget allocates significant resources to European projects and 'products' offering the highest value added, particularly in the fields of health, research and infrastructure; European debt issues could also be used for this purpose;

to extend cofinancing also to sectors in which it is currently not applicable, such as agriculture, in order to ensure that appropriations from the European Union's budget produce a 'leverage' effect thereby increasing the total amount of resources available;

to take every opportunity to promote the importance of measures to assist small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to achieving a significant increase in finance available to them, reducing and simplifying their administrative burden, introducing more flexible rules for granting State aid to them and in the area of VAT, as well as specific rules for tenders, and an implementation of the measures of the so-called Small Business Act;

to promote effective coordination of economic and employment policy, working to define a new strategy for growth and jobs after 2010, with a limited number of core common aims of genuinely high priority and a precise identification of European and national financial resources to be used to achieve them;

to involve parliament fully and in a timely manner in defining the Lisbon Strategy after 2010, involving it more actively and systematically in devising the proposed coordination and planning tools;

to promote a robust renewal of the European approach to immigration, going beyond the merely conservative and security-oriented concept underlying the disappointing Pact on Immigration and Asylum which is limited to the (necessary) prevention of illegal immigration and border controls, but fails to define a genuine European governance of integration policy based on

commitments made in the so-called social agenda in terms of social cohesion and measures to prevent discrimination – issues which in fact represent the true future for anyone wishing to achieve a more dynamic, diverse and prosperous continent of Europe;

to reintroduce the issue of climate change, the green economy and European leadership in the new sustainable economy as an absolute priority in the European strategy for development and response to the crisis, based on the so-called Climate-Energy Package, and to begin examining the third energy package, adopting in a consistent manner the measures needed to support energy saving, the development of renewable energy and the conversion of production to more ecological methods, also adopting a specific national implementation plan;

to support measures to improve the quality and effectiveness of the administration of justice when the new 2010-2015 programme for the area of freedom, security and justice is drawn up – to be adopted by the European Council in December 2009 – in particular by mutual recognition and implementation of decisions and the strengthening of police cooperation on an operational level;

to carry out a constant and urgent action to accelerate the process of enlargement towards the western Balkans, removing the obstacles and vetoes still preventing the conclusion of key stabilisation and association agreements, and to promote renewed activism by the Mediterranean Union, in particular by ensuring that the proportion of resources devoted to that region and to the new and desirable eastern partnership remains at the agreed level;

with regard to the policy and legislative programme instruments used by the EU's institutions, including the European Commission's annual political strategy, to provide Parliament in a timely manner with detailed information on issues of particular importance to Italy or with an impact on it, and on the government's views on such matters.

(6-00019) 'Gozi, Albonetti, Castagnetti, Farinone, Garavini, Giachetti, Lucà, Luongo, Merloni, Pompili, Verini, Zampa'