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Dear Secretary General,

The European Commission would like to thank the Italian Senate for having examined the White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change in the EU {COM(2009)147} and for having provided its opinion on the issue.

The European Commission notes the introductory remarks concerning the anthropogenic contribution to climate change. The scientific community – including Italian research institutions – have provided an unequivocal message on the negative effects of man-made emissions on the climate. In particular, the Commission would like to point to the findings in the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) which sum up the ‘state of the art’ of climate science. In the light of the scientific advice, the EU's objective, as endorsed by EU Heads of State and Government, is to limit the average global temperature to less than 2°C. However, even staying below this would require significant adaptation efforts.

The Commission welcomes the positive comments of the Senate on the framework proposed in the White Paper, including the development of the knowledge base in the short-term and the integration of adaptation issues into sectoral policies. As the Senate recognises, the Mediterranean regions will be amongst those most affected by climate change and, therefore, cooperation on adaptation in this region will be particularly important.

The European Commission will continue to keep the Italian Parliament informed about the further development of the EU strategy on adaptation.

I look forward to continuing this fruitful exchange of information,

Yours sincerely,

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Vice-President of the European Commission

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