

Brussels, 6/07/2010
DG/gvt/D/2010/234

Dear President,

The Commission thanks the Committee for Foreign Affairs and Emigration of the Senate of the Italian Republic for its resolution on the Communication "Towards an Integrated Maritime Policy for better governance in the Mediterranean" {COM(2009)466}, submitted on 11 May 2010, by a letter of your Secretary General.

The Commission notes that the Committee largely shares the priorities set out in the Communication and the overarching need to improve governance of maritime affairs in the Mediterranean whilst taking due account of the challenges and specificities inherent to the basin.

The resolution underlines a number of key aspects which are central for our future efforts on developing an Integrated Maritime Policy in the Mediterranean: notably, more tangible exchanges of experiences across coastal States, also through European Territorial Cohesion programmes where appropriate, structured dialogue for improving governance of the marine space, more clarity as to existing agreements and organisations addressing maritime affairs in the region, reinforcement of maritime surveillance activities and also further cooperation and dialogue with non-EU partner countries through existing mechanisms, such as the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

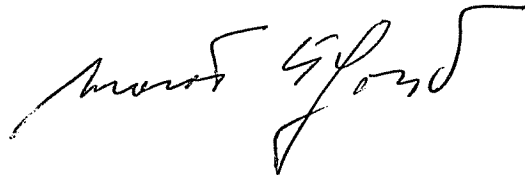
The Commission particularly welcomes the Committee's views on the need to accelerate implementation of major projects undertaken under the umbrella of the Union for the Mediterranean and which have an intrinsic maritime dimension, such as for instance Depollution of the Mediterranean and Motorways of the Sea. The Commission equally shares the need to improve governance capacities in those Mediterranean countries falling under the European Neighbourhood Policy through the development of specific projects, and certainly shares the view that this is a pre-condition for the development of a truly integrated maritime policy. The Commission is in fact currently working in this direction.

Mr Renato SCHIFANI
President
Senate of the Italian Republic
Piazza Madama
00186 Roma

In conclusion, the Commission is very grateful for the Committee's support for the actions currently being developed for furthering an Integrated Maritime Policy in the Mediterranean sea-basin, and looks forward to cooperate further with the Italian Senate in the process.

I look forward to continuing this fruitful exchange of information,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco Geronzi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.