

Brussels, 01/10/2010

Avès / 2010 / 653 077

Dear President,

The European Commission thanks the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic for the opinion adopted on 1 July 2010, with reference to the proposal for a regulation as regards the quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure {COM(2010)53}.

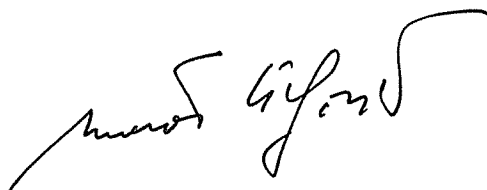
On the basis of this proposal, the Council adopted on 26 July Regulation (EU) No 679/2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 479/2009 as regards the quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure, and this Regulation has been published in the Official Journal (OJ L 198 of 30 July 2010, p. 1).

The Commission is grateful for the support expressed by the Italian Chamber of Deputies for this proposal and confirms that, according to the regulation as adopted by the Council, the methodological visits will be undertaken only in exceptional cases where significant risks or problems with respect to the quality of the data have been clearly identified. These visits will allow the Commission (Eurostat) to access the accounts of all government entities at central, state, local and social security levels, including the provision of existing underlying detailed accounting and budgetary information.

Finally, the Commission welcomes the ongoing developments taking place in Italy in order to ensure the full transparency and reliability of public accounts.

I look forward to continuing with our exchange of views.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Gianfranco Fini
President of the Chamber of Deputies
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