

Brussels, 26 JUL. 2011  
C/2011/ 5314

Dear President,

*The European Commission would like to thank the Chamber of Deputies for its opinion on the proposal for a Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims {COM(2010) 95}. The Commission would like to inform the Chamber that the Directive was formally adopted on 21 March 2011 and published in the Official Journal on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The legislative procedure has thus been finalised.*

*The Commission took note of the comments made by the Chamber of Deputies. As regards the definitions in Article 2, the Commission believes that the definitions given in the Directive – which are based on relevant international law instruments, in particular the Council of Europe Convention on Action against trafficking in human beings – are the most appropriate for the time being, in particular considering the interest to ensure coherence between EU and international law.*

*Concerning the suggestions by the Chamber of Deputies to introduce provisions regarding unaccompanied child victims and on the access of victims to existing systems for compensating victims of intentional violent crime, the Commission welcomes the fact that such provisions have indeed been included in the Directive.*

*Finally, for the reason mentioned by the Chamber of Deputies in its opinion, the Commission will reflect on the need to introduce also a minimum term of imprisonment in future criminal law Directives.*

*I am looking forward to further developing our political dialogue.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Gianfranco FINI  
President of the Italian  
Chamber of Deputies  
Piazza Montecitorio  
IT-00100 ROMA*