

Brussels, 01/10/2010
C/2010/6283

Dear President,

The Commission thanks the Senate of the Italian Republic for its resolution on the Commission Proposal for a Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and the Council concerning European Statistics on tourism – COM (2010) 117 and welcomes the favorable opinion.

Concerning the comments about Article 9, which proposes the delegation power conferred on the Commission "for an indeterminate period of time", the Commission believes it is preferable not to increase the institutions' workload by introducing a binding system of short-term delegations and that delegations of power should in principle be of indefinite duration. This has also been explained in the Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Article 290 of the Treaty on Functioning of the European Union (COM(2009) 673).

Regarding the three conditions mentioned in the resolution, the Commission would like to point out the following:

As regards the need to keep the system of tourism statistics up to date with the evolutions in the tourism market, the proposal includes the necessary arrangements for adapting the scope of observation, the subjects covered and the characteristics of the required information (Articles 3 and 4). This proposal has the ambition to update the current Directive 95/57/EC in order to align the European system of tourism statistics to the changed tourism market and changed user needs.

As regards point b), the Commission proposal aims at establishing a common framework for European statistics on tourism (Article 1). Although the proposal covers many information needs that exist both at the European level as well as at the national level, certain country-specific issues could not be accommodated in this proposal in order to keep the statistics relevant for all Member States concerned.

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Concerning point c) the Commission proposal foresees the transmission of regional accommodation statistics, as well as a breakdown by characteristics of the region (i.e. level of population density and whether coastal or non-coastal location).

The Commission hopes that these explanations satisfy the expectations of the Senate of the Italian Republic as expressed in its opinion.

I look forward to continuing this fruitful exchange of information,

Yours sincerely

/-/ Maroš Šefčovič