

Brussels, 02/03/2011  
C/2011/1281

*Dear President,*

*Thank you very much for sharing with us the Opinion of the Italian Senate of 29 October 2010, regarding the proposal for a Resolution of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme to support the further development of an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) {COM (2010) 494}.*

*We welcome the positive opinion of the Italian Senate on the proposal and the assessment of its compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.*

*Further defining the boundaries of sustainability of human activities that have an impact on the marine environment is one of the objectives of the proposed Regulation, in line with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) - Directive 2008/56/EC. All actions envisaged under this instrument and relating to the marine environment shall be complementary and coherent with other actions carried out under the MSFD by the EU and the Member States.*

*The Commission's proposal stipulates that the new IMP Programme may benefit third countries and stakeholders in third countries who pursue one or more of the general and specific objectives set out in Articles 2 and 3. The Commission takes note of the Senate's call for more incisive actions entailing cooperation with third countries – especially in the Mediterranean area. I would like to draw, however, your attention to the fact that the list of actions mentioned in the Legislative Financial Statement is indicative. The Commission will implement the proposed Programme on the basis of the Annual Work Programme, to be adopted in accordance with the Comitology procedure defined in Article 13 of the proposed Regulation and which includes the involvement of a Committee of Member States experts.*

*I am looking forward to continuing our policy dialogue.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Mr Renato Schifani  
President  
Senate of the Republic  
Piazza Madama  
00186 Roma*