

Resolution 6-00086

Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

Whereas:

the European Commission's work programme emphasises that the neighbourhood policy and the EU policies on enlargement, development and humanitarian aid are fundamental tools for the dissemination of the European Union's values and principles;

individual and collective religious freedom is a fundamental human right that is enshrined in various international legal instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (1981);

the principle of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, which postulates the right to religious belief or non-belief, as well as the right to change or abandon a religion and to manifest religious faith through worship and religious association without suffering discrimination or prejudice, can only be achieved in the context of a secular state,

commits the Government to:

taking the appropriate steps within all EU institutions and urging the European Commission, within its area of competence, to enforce the clause on human rights and democracy in the cooperation agreements between the EU and third countries, and making every effort to have this "clause on human rights and democracy" included in every type of agreement entered into with third countries.

(6-00086) (*Text amended in the course of the session*)

"Farina Coscioni, Maurizio Turco, Beltrandi, Bernardini, Mecacci, Zamparutti".

Resolution 6-00087
(Limited to the approved part only)

Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

Whereas:

the Policy Report on Italy's participation in the European Union in 2011 reaffirms the country's commitment to promoting the EU enlargement strategy and specifies that, for the purposes of the same, efforts shall be made to ensure that the negotiation process with Turkey is imbued with the necessary dynamism, which may also entail a revival of the informal Turkey Focus Group promoted by Italy;

the Chamber of Deputies concurs with the findings contained in the second report of the Independent Commission on Turkey of September 2009, chaired by Martti Ahtisaari, former President of the Republic of Finland and Nobel Peace Laureate for 2008, stating that: "the Independent Commission remains convinced of the huge benefits of Turkish convergence with Europe, and eventual EU membership of a transformed Turkey, both for the country itself and the European Union. The enormous progress made by Turkey in all fields over the past ten years is clearly connected with its status as a candidate country for European Union membership and the associated process of accession. To ensure a continuation of Turkey's transformation its European perspective must be preserved. Nobody can predict the outcome of the accession process and whether the stated goal can be reached. To give it a fair chance, however, is a matter of the EU's credibility, of self interest and of fairness due to all candidate countries";

mindful of the Resolution adopted unanimously by the Committee of Foreign Affairs and Migration of the Italian Senate on 14 January 2009, which "reaffirms the centrality of Turkey, whose European perspective is a powerful factor of geopolitical balance and stability in the Mediterranean area and the Middle East ... [and] welcomes the opening of two more negotiating chapters at the Accession Conference of December 2008 and hopes that under the Czech and Swedish Presidency of the second half of 2009 the accession process can maintain a good momentum. [The Senate] therefore expresses the hope that the Turkish Government shall be accorded full support in view of the political reforms that are necessary if the country is to comply with the Copenhagen criteria, and hopes that the Turkish Government may enjoy a further acceleration on the process of negotiation, and therefore invites the Government and all other stakeholders to make every possible effort, at every available occasion, to encourage Turkey's progress towards alignment with the *acquis communautaire*, to facilitate a positive outcome of the negotiations among the leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities and help normalise bilateral relations between Turkey and Cyprus";

commits the Government to:

supporting the accession of Turkey to the European Union under the same conditions applied to other candidate countries.

(6-00087)

«*Maurizio Turco, Farina Coscioni, Beltrandi, Bernardini, Mecacci, Zamparutti*».

Resolution 6-00091

Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

Whereas:

the Policy Report on Italy's participation in the European Union in 2011, the European Commission's Work Programme for 2011 and the Programme of the Polish, Danish and Cypriot trio of Presidencies were, for the first time, subjected to a joint parliamentary consideration, as recommended by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure in its opinion of July 2010, in the course of a session that was wholly dedicated to the scrutiny of the aforementioned documents and to comparing the priorities of EU institutions with those of the Italian Government for the year in question;

the purpose of the new joint "planning" session is to foster a broad-ranging debate that is also open to the participation of the social partners, business sectors and all other relevant stakeholders to discuss the current state and future prospects of the process of European integration and the role that Italy can play in advancing it. It is therefore essential for the planning session to be held at the beginning of each year, because this would enable both Houses of Parliament to make timely and effective contributions before the actions anticipated in the European Commission Work Programme are put into effect;

the Government's Policy Report for 2011 was not sent to the Chamber of Deputies until 19 May 2011, almost five months behind the deadline set in Section 15 of Law no. 11 of 2005. This delay, which can be justified in part by the fact that the introduction of the new regulations required preparatory work, meant that the new European session for 2011 did not begin until half way through the current year, thus diminishing the usefulness of the parliamentary scrutiny of the European Commission Work Programme for 2011, much of which had already been put into effect;

the Report outlines the Government's policy orientations only in a limited number of areas with respect to specific initiatives that European institutions have already begun or announced, and gives only occasional account of the relevant policy guidelines and draft legislation already adopted by the Italian Parliament;

the Government should, as a matter of importance and pursuant to Section 4-*bis* of Law no. 11 of 2005, put into effect the policy guidelines adopted by Parliament, especially as regards major issues such as budget reform, cohesion policy and the new economic governance of Europe;

Considering that:

the economic crisis and other major global problems, such as the prevention and resolution of regional conflicts, migration, climate change, energy security, combating terrorism and organised crime, require the EU to move towards ever-closer political and economic integration;

to date, the EU's responses to the foregoing issues have generally been too slow and ineffectual, exposing the weakness of the common institutions of the EU and revealing the opposition of many member states to deeper integration;

many of the institutional innovations envisaged by the Lisbon Treaty, designed to confer upon European institutions additional responsibilities and more advanced instruments for action, have been applied on a minimalist scale only, and this has prevented the accomplishment of any real breakthrough in the role and policies of the Union;

political and diplomatic action needs to be taken to counter the ambition of some member states to dictate, whether unilaterally or by means of bilateral agreements or alliances, policies or important decisions pertaining to the development of the process of integration. Such conduct runs counter to the principles and rationale of the Treaties of the European Union and upsets the balance of relations between the institutions of the EU, between the EU and its member states and between the member states themselves; it is, moreover, a flawed course of action that, in seeking to assert domestic political interests, ends up seriously damaging the credibility of the European project and, consequently, undermining the legitimacy of the EU in the eyes of its own citizens;

Italy, a founder-member of the EU, must reinforce its traditional European role by putting forward concrete and ambitious proposals to revive the process of integration and by taking bold steps to renovate the Union's institutional architecture so that it guarantees a balanced democratic representation of states and peoples and ensures accountability to the citizens of Europe in the governance of the Union;

in furtherance of this goal, Italy needs to consolidate its traditional function of providing a stimulus to integration and promoting dialogue with the major European partners, especially with Germany given the historical role this country has played in the construction of Europe; it is also necessary to counter the emergence of scepticism vis-à-vis the EU integration process and the growing tendency to act on the basis of purely nationalistic considerations;

speculative attacks against some Eurozone countries and the failure to generate growth and employment have exposed the fault lines and discrepancies running through the new model of European economic governance, a model whose shortcomings were pointed out several times by Italy's Chamber of Deputies and by other national parliaments. The attacks have made it necessary to draw up the "Euro-plus" agreement and correct the stabilisation mechanisms of the Eurozone. To ensure stability and, above all, growth in the Eurozone, the institutions of the EU need to promote a genuine European initiative for growth and employment that is backed by a precise plan of action directly coordinated and funded by the Union;

over the medium and long term, it will be necessary to set up an authentic "economic government" for the Eurozone, granting the Council and the Euro Group – acting on the proposals of the Commission and in co-decision with the European Parliament - binding powers over major economic and employment policies. This course of action will require the making of appropriate amendments to the Treaties of the EU. As part of the overhaul, it will be necessary to evaluate the possibility of creating innovative institutional figures;

with reference to the foregoing, it is necessary to reiterate that financial rigour is not the be-all and end-all of European policy: it is also necessary to move resolutely towards economic growth. In the current context of large public-sector deficits necessitating a reduction in the expenditure items in the budgets of member states, it is essential for countries to be able to count on European investment programmes and resources for the financing of projects with a European scope, which can serve as a spur to growth and consumption but are unaffordable for individual countries;

a first step in this direction can be accomplished by acting on the various proposals that have been advanced for the issuance of EU debt securities (Eurobonds, EuroUnion bonds, Project bonds) that would enable the EU to alleviate the debt of member countries and finance infrastructure projects with a European relevance. In the immediate future – and at any rate before the European Council meeting in December 2011 – the European Commission, which has announced the start of a specific study, needs to produce proposals for turning the initiative into practical action;

Italy must proceed with the rapid adoption of the appropriate amendments to article 81 of the Constitution that will therein enshrine the public finance constraints deriving from the Pact for Stability and Growth, in accordance both with the European Directive on national budgets that is currently in the process of approval and with the Euro-Plus Pact;

to ensure that the correction of the public accounts proceeds in an equitable and efficient manner, there has to be greater coordination of national tax policies in order to prevent or counter harmful competition in this area, especially in respect of corporate taxation and taxes on capital gains or financial income, because competition in tax policies could have negative repercussions on the general competitiveness of Europe's economy;

the European Union runs the risk of being relegated to a marginal role in international affairs, particularly in areas of vital interest as the Mediterranean, owing to its failure to come up with a common response even to events unfolding in areas close to its borders, such as the countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. These developments bear out the lack of a strategic vision in the institutions of the EU and the absence of solidarity among member states, even in the face of the massive immigration flows resulting from them. Above all, they have exposed the inability of the European High Representative for Foreign Affairs to fulfil the task of gradually building a real European foreign policy;

in the light of the failure of the Union for the Mediterranean, priority importance should now be given to the re-launch of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In this regard, consideration needs to be given to the possibility of progressively building a new Community linking the EU with the southern Mediterranean, a Community endowed with joint institutions and committed to peace, the defence of fundamental rights and sustainable development, and one that is ready and capable of reaching out towards the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea;

the European Council and European Parliament should propose to the countries of the southern Mediterranean area to establish this new Community, whose institutions would be fashioned after the European Coal and Steel Community. It is essential that the EU, on the one hand, and an integrated regional organisation of the countries of the southern Mediterranean, on the other, should participate on equal terms in the institutions of the new Community;

the resources and objectives for growth and employment provided for in the Commission's proposals of 29 June 2011 for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 are extremely modest, and rely to a large extent on the capacity of innovative financial instruments to promote further public and private investment;

what is needed, rather, is for the EU to arm itself with sufficient resources to carry out its internal and external responsibilities, which have increased both in quality and quantity as a result of the Lisbon Treaty, and to meet the expectations of citizens in the process of European integration;

it is a cause of concern that Italian institutional and non-institutional players have found it difficult to come up with a unified or at least non-contradictory stance within the

framework of the EU decision-making processes, especially in respect of matters of particular national interest;

particular censure must be reserved for the misalignment, as epitomised during the enhanced cooperation on the single European patent, between, on the one hand, the position of the Italian Government and Parliament regarding the interests of the country and of the system of production in general, and, on the other, the conflicting position taken by certain associations representing industrial categories, which were concerned with looking after their own sectoral interests only;

prompt approval should therefore be given to the reform of Law no. 11 of 2005 which envisages the strengthening of the instruments of coordination among all stakeholders during the formative stages of a national position;

commits the Government to:

a) with regard to future of the integration process:

promoting a renewed debate in Europe on the reform of European institutions to render them fit to deal with future challenges, and, to this end, drawing up concrete proposals for furthering the process of integration from a firmly European perspective, arguing for the need to amend the Lisbon Treaty through the convening of a Convention composed of MEPs, national MPs, representatives of European governments and representatives of EU institutions;

b) with regard to economic governance, growth and employment:

promoting, in conjunction with the measures now in the final stages of approval for the sustainability of public finances, macroeconomic surveillance and national budgetary frameworks, a European initiative for growth and employment that comprises a clear programme of action directly coordinated and funded by the European Union to stimulate growth and consumption;

taking action at domestic level through the adoption of measures consistent with the six recommendations made to Italy by the European Council following the examination last July of Italy's plan of economic reform;

making every effort, including by means of appropriate amendments to the EU Treaties, to act upon the proposals for the issuance of EU debt securities, which would alleviate the debt position of member states and could be used to fund large European-scale investments in the fields of energy, telecommunications, transport, education and technological R&D;

opening up deliberations about the eventual medium- and long-term formation of a proper "economic government" for the Eurozone and promoting appropriate amendments to the Treaties of the EU to be made following the convening of a Convention (using the ordinary revision procedure), with a view to assigning binding powers to the European Council and the Euro Group – acting on the proposals of the Commission and in co-decision with the European Parliament - to adopt major policy decisions relating to the economy and employment. In furtherance of the foregoing, the Chamber of Deputies also commits the Government to considering the possibility of creating new institutional figures to be vested with powers of external representation of the European Union in international financial fora;

ensuring, pursuant to Law no. 196 of 2009 and subsequent amendments, the involvement of the Houses of Parliament, regional and local governments in the preparation of the national reform plan and stability programme in connection with the "European semester";

c) with regard to the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020:

making every effort in the course of the negotiations that began with the presentation on 29 June last of the European Commission's proposals relating to the Financial Framework 2014-2020 and the EU own resources to ensure that, pending the adoption of specific policy guidelines by the Houses of Parliament, proper account is taken of the following principles:

the net balance of Italy's budget must be improved by reducing the significant disparity between the amount that Italy currently contributes to the EU and the amount that it receives, which will entail the elimination of budgetary corrections envisaged for certain member states in the current financial framework;

the size of the EU budget must be assured so that it remains possible to effectively pursue the objectives set at European level, with particular reference to those that form part of the Europe 2020 Strategy, in a manner that is financially compatible with the current situation of crisis that has obliged member states to comply with strict budgetary constraints;

national budgets and the budget of the European Union need to be better coordinated and harmonised so that they can be more accurately evaluated and so that the available resources can be better utilised; the EU's policies and the measures adopted at a national and regional level also require better coordination;

an adequate level of resources needs to be set aside to support cohesion policies, and actions should be concentrated on a limited number of high value-added objectives; the procedures for the planning, management and control of the actions need to be improved and simplified, and the funds earmarked for the Italian regions in connection with the cohesion policy must not be less than envisaged in the current version of the financial framework. For the sake of ensuring the conditions above, it would appear that the Government may have to reiterate its firm opposition to the introduction of the "regions in transition" objective and reaffirm its support for the maintenance of the existing rules relating to the eligibility of territories and the allocation of resources to the most disadvantaged regions;

the Government should confirm its reservations regarding the introduction of a European-level performance reserve, as it could burden cohesion policy with unreachable targets;

giving due consideration, in accordance with the relevant Resolutions adopted by the European Parliament, to the Commission's proposals to introduce a tax on financial transactions to create a new source of own resources for the EU, and making sure that similar initiatives are also taken at an international level to avoid the risk of financial activities being transferred to other nations;

promptly apprising the Houses of Parliament of all main developments in the negotiations and supplying them with sufficient data along with economic projections of the

impact on Italy's net balance of the different options under consideration regarding the next financial framework and system of own resources;

d) with regard to cohesion policy:

identifying the resources needed to compensate for the exclusion of the value of national cofinancing of European Structural Fund programmes from the budget balance when applying the rules of the internal stability pact 2011-2013 for regions and local authorities, also so that funds can be released for spending on investment;

calling at EU level for a simplification of the procedures regulating the use of Structural Funds and the related reporting requirements, the complexity of which is an impediment to their prompt utilisation;

supporting proposals to raise the quota of European co-funding for all the objectives included in the Structural Funds in light of the difficult economic situation;

e) with regard to the internal market and enterprise policy:

supporting the introduction of a diversified approach for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, especially as regards the simplification of administrative and financial reporting rules;

taking action for the effective and systematic application of the "SME test" so that every legislative proposal of the European Commission is accompanied by an assessment of the impact of the costs incurred by companies, particularly SMEs, whose other charges may then be reduced by a corresponding amount, and seeing to the application of principle of proportionality and specificity and the deferment of the compliance obligations of SMEs;

promoting the access of SMEs to public procurement contracts, not simply by offering incentives to the contracting local authorities to take the needs of SMEs into consideration, but also by making appropriate amendments to the directives currently in force so that certain types of contracts are expressly reserved for SMEs;

contributing to the enhancement of the instruments used by the EU to prevent and combat counterfeiting, which includes guaranteeing the full traceability of products, in particular by means of a system of random checks on merchandise on sale in retail outlets;

supporting at EU level any national or European instrument that is designed to safeguard the "made in" label or enhance the traceability of products;

f) with regard to the financial markets:

sponsoring the following actions, in connection with the revision of EC Regulation 1060/2009 referring to credit rating agencies:

a review of the role ascribed to the ratings issued by agencies; a review of the impact of the ratings on the functioning of markets; and, in particular, the elimination or significant restriction of the use of ratings for regulatory purposes;

the introduction of mechanisms to make rating agencies liable in cases where their judgments are seriously flawed; resolution of the problem of the rating agencies'

conflicts of interest; a revision of the mechanisms by which the agencies are remunerated for their rating services;

the establishment of an independent public credit rating agency, and the creation of a European rating index (EURIX) to serve as a counterweight to the three major agencies;

improving the rules regulating the management of financial crises by bolstering the relevant monitoring systems and introducing new regulatory measures (also within the framework of the G-20) that will apply to the major players in the global market;

g) with regard to tax policy:

endeavouring, in line with the aims of the Euros-Plus Pact, to enhance the coordination of national tax systems to prevent damaging tax competition among member states, and considering the possibility to introduce harmonised regulations also in the area of direct taxation, with particular reference to taxes on income and activities having a transnational dimension, such as those related to financial firms and financial income;

supporting the adoption of measures to reduce the tax burden on small and medium-sized enterprises, in line with the Small Business Act, and supporting the simplification of tax returns and collection;

fostering a more robust regulatory framework to prevent and combat tax evasion and fraud;

supporting the rapid adoption of the proposed directive on a consolidated corporate tax base, and assessing the appropriate amendments and additions that need to be made. In particular, the definition of a common tax base for corporations has to be accompanied by the setting of one or more minimum tax rates in the manner now used for VAT and excise duties;

following up on the indications contained in the Green Paper on the future of VAT by promoting legislative proposals for VAT reform that envisage the following:

the setting of stricter and more uniform rules both as regards the definition of the tax base and as regards tax rates; a reduction in the number of VAT exemptions; the elimination of the derogations enjoyed by individual member states whereby certain categories of goods or services are excluded from VAT;

the rationalisation and updating of the system of minimum VAT rates in a manner that takes into account the objectives of growth, competitiveness and employment envisaged in the Europe 2020 Strategy, now made all the more urgent by the need to revitalize the European economy after the crisis;

the streamlining of the costs arising from tax returns and collection;

making an attentive appraisal of the implications of the European Commission's proposals for the reform of energy and environmental taxes;

h) with regard to the European Union's external action and neighbourhood policy:

taking steps to ensure that the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is more systematic and effective in the exercise of the duties assigned to him/her by Chapter 2 of Title V of the Treaty on European Union, and that he/she exploits the full potential of the European External Action Service;

promoting the development of a common security and defence policy, which may also involve recourse to permanent structured cooperation as per article 42, paragraph 6 of the Treaty on European Union, and acting decisively to deal with the unresolved issues that continue to impede full synergy with NATO;

fostering a revival of the enlargement process by exploiting the positive momentum resulting from Croatia's accession to the European Union;

working towards the establishment of an ambitious new strategic framework for EU action in respect of the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean not only in order to strengthen their institutions but also in order to offer robust support to their local economy and develop their infrastructure;

taking due care during the negotiations on the Commission's proposals for the new financial framework to ensure that, in relation to the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy, adequate funds (and in no case less than two thirds of the available resources) are allocated to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;

taking action to ensure that multilateral and bilateral agreements between the EU and the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean include conditional clauses whereby the provision of aid or technical assistance from the European Union is made contingent on the recipient's respect for human rights and religious freedom, as well as on precise and verifiable undertakings by the recipient to prevent and counter irregular migration, terrorism and organised crime;

taking all appropriate steps with the competent EU institutions to further the establishment of a new Community formed by the EU and southern Mediterranean countries. The Community shall be committed to securing peace, fundamental rights and sustainable development; it shall favour education, training and young people, support the extension of the internal market among its members and shall be endowed with common institutions involving on equal terms, on the one hand, the European Union and, on the other, an integrated regional organisation for the countries of the southern Mediterranean;

strengthening the internal security of the European Union by promoting cooperation with third countries where the risk of terrorist propaganda is greatest and with countries where organised crime is most prevalent;

strengthening the strategic partnership with the Russian Federation in furtherance of the attainment of a coordinated and comprehensive vision of all the various dimensions that make up the relationship;

i) with regard to the area of freedom, security and justice:

ensuring the direct participation of the European Union in border control activities when requested by a member state, which could include the strengthening of Frontex through the establishment of a fully-fledged European border police agency to be given responsibility for coordinating joint operations for the repatriation of illegal immigrants, and the shared command of joint land and sea patrols to be carried out in full compliance with international law and in respect of fundamental rights;

ensuring the participation of the European Union, also in respect of the relevant financial costs, in the repatriation of foreigners illegally entering the territory of a member state, seeking the imposition of penalties on any member state that fails to comply with its duties of solidarity and cooperation in the fight against illegal immigration and in the maintenance of border controls, and favouring the adoption of programmes of technical assistance between the European Union and member states;

promoting the creation of a mechanism for the re-settlement of refugees among various member states on a mandatory rather than a voluntary basis, and the imputation of the related costs to the budget of the European Union;

supporting the initiatives announced by the European Commission pertaining to legal immigration that aim to promote more effective common instruments of integration;

favouring an increase in the financial support allocated to countries at most risk of poverty, particularly those afflicted by conflict and environmental disasters;

favouring the completion of the common European asylum system, which should be consistent with the fundamental values and international obligations of the European Union;

l) with regard to environmental policy:

sponsoring, in the context of the next financial framework of the European Union, a plan to appropriate the considerable resources of the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund along with the funds set aside for the transport and energy sectors for projects that favour the protection of the environment and the development of energy efficiency;

making sure that the future common strategic framework for research and innovation provides financial support for the most advanced environmental technologies by configuring incentives to respond to the capacity of projects, relative to the resources available to them, to maximize results, which will be measured on the basis of an accurate cost-benefit analysis;

promoting EU interventions in favour of energy and environmental sustainability in construction projects in a manner that encourages energy-saving building projects and the use of ecological materials with low environmental impact (so-called bio building), while supporting actions geared towards energy efficiency and energy savings in all buildings for civil and residential use;

endeavouring to ensure that the EU shall urge countries with the greatest responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions to give firm commitments, comparable to those already undertaken by the EU itself, to reduce their emissions;

favouring the direct allocation of EU financial resources to partly cover costs relating to the clean-up of the EU's most contaminated sites and to encourage the widespread dissemination of best practices in waste reuse and recycling in order to reduce landfill dumping by a significant amount;

m) with regard to agricultural policy and fisheries:

complying - in the negotiations concerning the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the post-2013 reform of the Common Agricultural Policy - with the policy

guidelines set out in the motions approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 2 February 2011, with particular reference to the following objectives:

to prevent the adoption of the agricultural acreage criterion as the only benchmark for determining the allocation of direct aid, and to see to it that Italy, which is a net contributor to EU budget, is not penalised in the apportioning of the agricultural budget among the 27 member states;

to favour the introduction of crisis-prevention instruments and the implementation of more flexible market regulations that include provisions for distributing income support to producers in times of market crisis;

to champion greater flexibility in the pursuit of rural development goals by eliminating the rigid division of EAFRD funding into "Axes" and replacing it with a system that refers to the thematic and territorial dimensions of a project;

to make sure that the objectives of the various instruments planned for the next financial framework for the Common Agricultural Policy and Fisheries Policy are consistent with the objectives of biodiversity;

endeavouring to ensure that in the course of the consideration of the proposed Regulation amending Regulation (EC) no. 1698/2005 of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (COM (2010)537), due account shall be taken of the following: the right of member states that have opted for regional programmes to calculate the automatic decommitment of financial resources at a national level, in derogation to the provisions of the said Regulation; and the possibility to take into account non-recoverable VAT in the calculation of the EAFRD contribution if the related costs were genuinely and definitively borne by beneficiaries. Mechanisms analogous to those described above also need to be put in place for the future planning period so that no penalty is attached to application of the automatic decommitment;

promoting the initiatives necessary for the preparation of EU legislation to combat the phenomenon of agricultural piracy and thereby protect the interests both of consumers and of agricultural producers committed to quality;

endeavouring to ensure that in the course of the examination of the legislative proposals of the European Commission for the reform of the fisheries policy due account shall be taken of the need to combine environmental with economic and social objectives and thus not only protecting fish stocks but also guaranteeing the pre-conditions for the survival of fishing as a viable economic activity;

n) with regard to gender equality and combating discrimination:

collaborating in the work to consolidate joint action for gender equality and the combating of discrimination, in line with the provisions of the 2020 European Strategy for Growth and Employment;

o) with regard to the liaison between the Government and Parliament for the framing of European Union policies:

ensuring that the Government's policy reports are submitted to the Houses of Parliament by the deadline of 31 December as prescribed by Law no. 11 of 2005 so that

the Chamber of Deputies may begin its planning session at the beginning of the following year;

strengthening the linkage between Parliament, the Government and all other stakeholders involved in the definition of the official Italian position in respect of the EU decision-making process, and, in furtherance of this objective, leveraging the competencies of the Interministerial Committee for European Affairs (CIACE) and ensuring a more systematic linkage with Italy's representation at the EU;

ensuring, in particular, that the Interministerial Committee for European Affairs is convened to discuss all the most important measures and issues with a multi-sectoral scope of reference, including the new Multiannual Financial Framework, the reform of the Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy, and in any case always ahead of meetings of the European Council, and that the Standing Technical Committee is convened at least once a month;

providing, upon transmission of the relevant documents to the Houses of Parliament, a detailed explanation of why certain pieces of EU draft legislation and other European Union documents have been flagged as being of particular relevance for Italy;

ensuring, in compliance with Section 4-*quater* of Law no. 11 of 2005, that technical reports on EU draft legislation subjected to parliamentary consideration or of special political, juridical or economic significance are transmitted to the Houses of Parliament;

guaranteeing, in compliance with Section 4-*bis* of Law no. 11 of 2005, that the Houses of Parliament are regularly apprised of actions taken by the Government in response to policy recommendations issued by Parliament, by means of, in particular, the transmission of a dedicated bi-annual report.

(6-00091)

«*Pescante, Gozi, Maggioni, Buttiglione, Borghesi, Formichella, Razzi*».