



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

Bruxelles, 13.12.2011
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Dear President,

The Commission thanks the Italian Senate for its opinion on the Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on European Statistics on Safety from Crime {COM (2011) 335}. We would like to apologise for the undue delay in replying to your Opinion.

The Commission welcomes the Senate's favourable opinion on the above Proposal and would like to provide some clarification on the specific issues raised.

The Commission takes note that the Senate highlights the importance of including coverage of crimes which are particularly dangerous to physical safety and would like to stress that the list of offences covered provided in Annex I to the proposed Regulation, is currently under detailed discussion in the Council Working Group on Statistics. The Commission is open to consider any other amendments to this list which might be suggested by the Member States. Please note also that the European Parliament will start the institutional discussion soon.

As regards the Senate's remark that whereas a maximum financial contribution of 90% of eligible costs is stipulated in the proposal, no minimum figure is specified, it appears that some countries will not require any financial support at all, so that the minimum figure would in effect be zero. Currently a total of 12 million euros is allocated for this Proposal.

Concerning the suggestion that the data should be collected and published by the end of 2013 instead of 2014, the Commission would agree with this, but interviews may still be ongoing until the end of 2013. In addition, several Member States have already indicated that they might have difficulty in meeting the proposed deadlines for sending the data to the Commission. Consequently, it seems unlikely that this date could be achieved.

With regard to the fact that France and Ireland are exempted from collecting information on violence between members of the same family, the Commission would like to stress that this request was made by those Member States because of the sensitivity of these questions. In fact,

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in some Member States legal obligations would require the interviewer to report such crimes to the police. Nevertheless, it is possible that other Member States may have the same need and request a similar exemption during the current inter-institutional discussions.

I hope that these clarifications address the questions raised in your opinion and I look forward to continuing this fruitful exchange of information with the Italian Senate.

Yours faithfully,

*Maros Sefcovic
Vice President*