



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.1.2012  
C/2012/ 461 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its opinion on the Commission Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 2002/546/EC on the AIEM tax applicable in the Canary Islands {COM(2011)443 final}.*

*The Commission agrees in substance with the Senato della Repubblica as regards the precautions to be taken in the context of any further extension of the Decision 2002/546/EC, in case Spain requests such extension. In the Explanatory memorandum of the above mentioned Commission Proposal the Commission states that any further extension will only be authorised following a fresh product-by-product analysis. Moreover, as authority in charge of State aid surveillance, the Commission will ensure that any aid provided through a (further) temporal extension of the AIEM regime will be compatible with the applicable rules, in particular with the future Guidelines on national regional aid. The Commission strives to ensure consistency between its action under the State aid heading and as institution competent for adopting proposals under Article 349 TFEU.*

*I hope that these clarifications address the concerns raised in your opinion and I look forward to further deepening our political dialogue with the Senato della Repubblica*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Sen. Renato SCHIFANI  
Presidente  
Senato della Repubblica  
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