



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17/12/2012
C(2012) 9687 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructures {COM(2011) 658 final}, and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Senato della Repubblica's comments and suggestions are very much in line with the objectives of the proposal in relation to the promotion of smart grids; to the reliance – to the extent possible – on existing regional platforms to avoid duplication; to the importance of the degree of contribution of projects to implement the priority corridors and to the informal consultation of interested parties for the nomination of European Coordinators.

As to the suggestion to allow project promoters the choice of the most favourable procedure for the permit granting procedure, in our view this possibility is covered in the proposal, whereby projects of common interest shall have the right to benefit from the most favourable treatment that is available for national projects, stipulated in Article 8.

The Commission agrees with the Senato della Repubblica that all parties involved in decisions concerning trans-European energy infrastructures should have sufficient time to fulfil their tasks, whilst keeping in mind the time pressure to achieve the short and long term energy and climate policy objectives, such as the imminent need to complete the internal energy market by 2014 and to connect isolated regions by 2015 as agreed by the European Council in February 2011. Infrastructures are key to achieving these goals.

Finally, the Commission would like to stress its commitment to continue exploring solutions as to how to further diversify the EU's gas supply sources.

The Commission hopes that these explanations address the issues raised by the Senato della Repubblica in its Opinion and looks forward to continuing our dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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Vice-President

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