



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 18.10.2012
C(2012) 7315 final

Sen. Renato SCHIFANI
Presidente
Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
IT – 00186 ROMA

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing for the period 2014 to 2020 the Justice Programme {COM(2011) 759 final}.

The Commission's proposal merges three existing programmes into one, it aims to streamline and simplify procedures for applicants and beneficiaries, to reduce bureaucracy and to focus on projects with clear European added value. In this context, the Commission takes particular note of the relevant references in your Opinion.

The Commission would like to point out that the funding foreseen under the Justice Programme for the area of anti-drugs policy aims to prevent and reduce drug demand and supply. This approach reflects the importance that the Commission attaches to a balanced and evidence-based drug policy addressing with equal vigour both drug demand, including health-related aspects, and drug supply. Funding from the Justice Programme will be complementary with funding from other EU funding instruments (Article 11 of the Justice Programme), including with the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, crime prevention and fight against cross-border and serious crime¹, which will provide the necessary funds for anti-trafficking activities, and with the Health for Growth programme² with regards to drugs-related health damage. The EU funding instruments aim to provide a comprehensive framework, which will accompany and support the implementation and development of EU anti-drug policies.

Also, as regards drug trafficking, the Commission is exploring the possibility to revise the Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, referred to in your Opinion.

Article 12 of the Justice Programme empowers the Commission, the Court of Auditors and the European Anti-fraud office (OLAF) to take appropriate measures to protect Union's financial interests. While exercising their powers these bodies should act on the basis of the given mandates and in line with existing Union and national legislation.

¹ COM(2011) 753 final, available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/753.pdf>

² COM(2011) 709 final, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/prop_prog2014_en.pdf

The Commission shares the view of the Italian Senate that the mainstreaming of equality between women and men and of anti-discrimination is a horizontal objective that cuts across all the objectives of the Programme. Monitoring the achievement of this objective is of importance for the implementation of the Programme and it should be done in a horizontal way. In order to address this need, Article 13 paragraph 1 of the Proposal foresees that, where relevant, all indicators will be disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

The Proposal foresees the necessary involvement of Member States in the adoption of implementing measures of the Regulation. Additionally, it puts in place a system of monitoring and evaluation of the Regulation's results, which will provide the Member States with detailed information on the implementation and achievements of the Programme. The proposed Justice Programme is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the Council. During these discussions, the need for improving specific indicators, addressed also by your Opinion, was already mentioned.

I hope that these clarifications address the comments raised in the Opinion submitted by the Senato della Repubblica and I am looking forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*