



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.3.2013
C(2013) 1564 final

Mr Renato SCHIFANI
President of the
Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
IT – 00186 ROMA

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the two draft Regulations {COM(2012) 819_821 final} which form the so called 'Two-Pack'. Both texts are currently being discussed between co-legislators.

The Commission has taken due note of the concerns of the Senato della Repubblica as regards the calendar constraints that the Commission Opinions on Member States' draft budgetary plans, as defined in {COM(2012) 821 final}, would create. The Commission acknowledges the importance for national Parliaments to receive any relevant information on the draft budgetary plans as early as possible, to allow an appropriate handling in the budgetary process. Advancing the deadline for submission of the Commission Opinions to 15 November would risk undermining the quality of the information that they could provide to national Parliaments, in particular in view of the fiscal notification timelines¹.

However, the Commission will undertake to submit any Opinion as soon as possible and no later than the cut-off date of 30 November, taking into account as much as possible the specific national fiscal schedule and parliamentary procedures, in order to ensure that Union's policy guidance in the budgetary area can be appropriately integrated in the national budgetary preparations.

Regarding the independent institutions in charge of monitoring compliance with national fiscal rules, besides the provisions of Article 6(1b) of Directive 2011/85/EU², the main

¹ Fiscal data notification deadlines are stipulated in Regulation (EC) No 479/2009.

² Excerpt of Article 6 of Directive 2011/85/EU:

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of the TFEU concerning the budgetary surveillance framework of the Union, country-specific numerical fiscal rules shall contain specifications as to the following elements:

- (a) the target definition and scope of the rules;
- (b) the effective and timely monitoring of compliance with the rules, based on reliable and independent analysis carried out by independent bodies or bodies endowed with functional autonomy vis-à-vis the fiscal authorities of the Member States;
- (c) the consequences in the event of non-compliance.

principles have been published by the Commission on 20 June 2012, in a Communication on Common principles on national fiscal correction mechanisms. The Commission services stand of course fully ready to provide any necessary technical assistance to the Italian Parliament in order to ensure compliance with the new legal requirements.

The Commission hopes that these explanations serve to clarify the points raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*