



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 4/12/2012
C(2012) 8925 final

Dear President,

The 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 a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide {COM(2011) 844 final}, and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission would like to assure the Senato della Repubblica that complementarity remains a cornerstone of the proposed new regulation establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights. Its aim is to support, in particular, civil society actors that cannot be assisted through the geographic instruments, as the implementation of the current instrument has already demonstrated in the period 2007-2013.

The Commission would also like to clarify that the principle of conditionality should not apply to the proposed instrument. Indeed, its objective is to operate precisely where human rights are not respected or are violated, independently of the governments of the countries concerned.

Finally, the Commission would like to point out that the results obtained through the implementation of the instrument are regularly communicated to both the European Parliament and the representatives of the Member States, with the application of specific rules of confidentiality where necessary.

The Commission hopes that these explanations address the concerns expressed by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Renato SCHIFANI
President of the
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