



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 25.1.2013  
C(2012) 261 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the European Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics {COM(2012) 167 final}. The Commission highly appreciates your support for the objectives and content of this proposal which is crucial for ensuring the credibility of European statistics.*

*The proposal aims at adapting the current basic legal framework for European statistics to policy needs and challenges created by the recent unfavourable developments in the global economy. The main goal is to further strengthen the governance in the European Statistical System in order to secure its high credibility and to respond adequately to data needs resulting, inter alia, from the enhanced economic policy coordination in the European Union. As identified by the European Commission in its Communication 'Towards robust quality management for European statistics' {COM(2011) 211 final}, the main elements to be addressed in this context are: the need to strengthen the professional independence of the national statistical institutes (NSIs); clarification of their coordinating role within national statistical systems with regard to development, production and dissemination of European statistics; reinforcement of the use of administrative data for statistical purposes; and establishment of 'Commitments on confidence in statistics'. This approach has been welcomed by the Council in its conclusions of 20 June 2011 and later clearly supported by the European Parliament in its own-initiative resolution of 13 March 2012 on quality management for European statistics. Both institutions demonstrate a keen interest in the progress of implementation of measures proposed in the above mentioned Communication.*

*The Commission has conducted extensive consultations with Member States in the preparation of its legislative proposal, including within a dedicated technical task force composed of representatives from Member States. Such consultations were necessary in order to ensure not only that the objectives explained above can be achieved, but also that there is a shared understanding of what these objectives are and why they are compliant with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.*

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

*The Commission takes note, in the framework of its discussion with the European Parliament and the Council, of the Senato's suggestion on the possible alignment of the five-year period for the exercise of the delegated powers assigned to the Commission in the new Article 26a to the seven-year period proposed for the European Statistical Programme.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*