



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 18.3.2013
C(2013) 1360 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) {COM (2012) 329 final}, with a view to transferring Serbia from the list of potential candidate countries (Annex II) to the list of candidate countries (Annex I) and apologizes for the delay in replying.

As the Senato della Repubblica rightly points out, the Commission proposal aims at complying with the mandate from the European Council of 1-2 March 2012 that endorsed the Council's conclusions of 28 February 2012 to grant Serbia the status of candidate country.

Concerning your suggestion to withdraw Croatia from the list of candidate countries of Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006, given its current status of 'acceding country', the Commission would point out that, in accordance with the provisions included in the Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Republic of Croatia (OJ 24 April 2012), an amendment to Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 can only be envisaged after the actual date of EU accession (foreseen on 1 July 2013). Until its accession, Croatia continues to be eligible for assistance under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

The Commission hopes that this explanation provides for more clarity and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President

Sen. Renato Schifani
President of the
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