



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24. 1. 2013
C(2012) 264 final

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the Commission's Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decision 2003/17/EC by extending its period of application and by updating the names of a third country and of the authorities responsible for the approval and control of the production {COM(2012)343 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senato's positive stance on the proposal and would like to make the following remarks on the more specific comments provided by the Senato.

The Senato questions the extension of the period of validity to 10 years instead of 5 years as applied by the existing Directive, arguing that the explanation produced is not sufficient. The Commission would like to emphasise that the aim of the proposals is to provide a clear framework to ensure the necessary supply of seed to the EU market. The period has been extended over the time from 2 to 5 years and it is now suggested to 10 years. The Commission is not aware of any problems on imports and, therefore, considers the extension to 10 years to be reasonable. In addition, due to the Treaty of Lisbon the decision procedure has changed from a single Council decision to a co-decision procedure with the European Parliament.

Furthermore, the procedures for the adoption of a new Regulation on Seeds and Propagating Material (S&PM) will be launched in February 2013 by the Commission, with specific secondary acts to be adopted thereafter. Therefore, a time limit of 10 years is necessary to avoid the expiration within this process.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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