



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.04, 2013
C(2013) 2254 final

Dear President,

The 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 establishing a Union action for the "European Capitals of Culture" for the years 2020-2033 {COM(2012) 407 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission is glad to note that the Senato della Repubblica welcomes and supports the continuation of this most prestigious and high-profile European initiative beyond 2019.

The Commission takes note of the specific issues raised in the Opinion and welcomes the positive assessment of the Senato della Repubblica about the main elements of the Commission's proposal. It aims indeed at building on the many strengths of the current scheme, while bringing improvements resulting from the experience gathered so far, in order to maximise the potential benefits for all cities bidding and/or holding the title as well as for their citizens. The Commission fully shares the importance the Senato della Repubblica gives to long-term benefits of the action as well as to the assessment of its impact.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by Senato della Repubblica in its Opinion and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue on these important issues.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the
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