



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,  
C(2013)

final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the Commission's proposal for an amendment to the Commission Proposal {COM(2011) 607 final/2} - Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 {COM(2013) 145 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.*

*The Commission appreciates the position expressed in the Opinion and the constructive observations aimed at supporting the Commission's proposal and reinforcing the related actions envisaged for the national level. The Commission also welcomes the commitment and actions launched with all relevant stake-holders in Italy.*

*The Commission shares the view that the social aspects of the current global crisis should not be overlooked and that unless current trends are reversed quickly, today's levels of youth unemployment risk damaging the longer-term employment prospects for young people, with serious implications for future growth and social cohesion.*

*The June 2013 European Council has called upon Member States with regions experiencing youth unemployment rates above 25 per cent to submit a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan by December 2013.*

*Furthermore, the budget of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) will be front-loaded to make available the entire amount of EUR 6 billion in commitments in 2014 and 2015. It is vital that the YEI be used above all to support the implementation of the Youth Guarantee and target the 7.5 million young people who are not in employment, education or training. Of course, the needs are much larger than what the YEI budget can achieve, and the ESF regulation has been designed in such a way that it could finance the Youth Guarantee beyond the Youth Employment Initiative.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

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