



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
C(2014) *final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its favourable Opinion concerning the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 911/2010 {COM(2013) 312 final/2}.

In the framework of the current inter-institutional discussions on this proposal, the Industry, Research and Energy Committee of the European Parliament approved on 23 January 2014 the text of the Copernicus Regulation. This version was the result of a political agreement reached in December 2013 between the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. This opens the way for a first reading agreement with a vote of the European Parliament Plenary in March or April 2014, followed shortly thereafter by a formal vote of the Council.

The Commission has duly noted the issues and arguments brought forward by the Senato della Repubblica and is pleased to inform that most of these comments are addressed positively in the current version of the Regulation. In particular, the European Space Agency's (ESA) role in the space component is defined and the delegation of powers is limited to the duration of the programme. Moreover, the scope of the delegation of power for the data policy has been reduced and the security of the system has been reinforced, with a clear role for Member States.

Furthermore, the Commission would like to stress that it did not grant an extension of the deadline for expressing opinions to national Parliaments because, in its opinion, the proposal's corrigendum adopted in July 2013 did not alter the original proposal with regard to subsidiarity.

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*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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