



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 14.03.2014
C(2014) 1675 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material, amending Council Directives 98/56/EC, 2000/29/EC and 2008/90/EC, Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 882/2004 and (EC) No 396/2005, Directive 2009/128/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and repealing Council Decisions 66/399/EEC, 76/894/EEC and 2009/470/EC {COM(2013) 327 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senato's overall support for the proposed regulation, particularly as concerns the simplification of the financial management in the food chain area by introducing, inter alia, a clear set of indicators and rationalised co-financing rates. The Commission also welcomes the detailed observations made by the Senato della Repubblica and would like to react as follows on the individual points:

With a view to the comments of the Senato della Repubblica regarding the specific objective of a high level of safety of food and food production systems, the Commission considers that, although no activities directly linked to the above mentioned elements are co-financed in this context, EU programmes to tackle zoonoses (such as programmes on salmonella) indirectly address both the control of zoonotic agents in foods and cases in humans themselves; in addition, the European notification system for animal diseases allows gathering the information needed to monitor their evolution.

As to the concerns of the Senato della Repubblica about the establishment of a minimum ceiling for grants and concerning the newly proposed deadlines for the submission of reports and the approval of programmes, the Commission will take them into account in the framework of the relevant discussions with the co-legislators.

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the
Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
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Concerning the requested clarification whether Reg. 349/2005 will stay in force once the basic act, notably Council Decision 2009/470/EC, will be repealed by the current proposal, the Commission is pleased to confirm that Reg. 349/2005 will still apply after the adoption of the new financial regulation ("principle of legal security").

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*