



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26. II. 2014  
C(2014) 1227 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion and endorsement concerning the Commission's proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the Union in a second European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials (EDCTP) Partnership Programme jointly undertaken by several Member States {COM(2013) 498 final}.*

*The Commission agrees that, in addition to supporting the clinical development of new and better treatments and cures for patients suffering from poverty-related diseases, it is of the utmost importance to further improve and invest in the prevention of these diseases.*

*To that end, the Commission's proposal also foresees EDCTP's continued support to the clinical development of vaccines and microbicides, and to the optimisation of related health services delivery, including diagnostics and preventive behaviours.*

*It should also be recalled that EDCTP is part of a EUR 22 billion investment package to be implemented under the auspices of Horizon 2020, the European funding programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). This significant set of investments offers an enhanced set of opportunities for Italy's research performing entities from both the public and private sectors.*

*The Commission hopes that this letter addresses the observations made by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing this political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Mr Pietro Grasso  
President of the Senato della Repubblica  
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