



Brussels, 27.03.2014
C(2014) 1954 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its favourable Opinion concerning the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community, in view of the implementation by 2020 of an international agreement applying a single global market-based measure to international aviation emissions {COM(2013) 722 final}.

The Commission would like to take the opportunity to respond to the particular concerns raised in the Opinion. Firstly, the Opinion alleges that the Commission has failed to quantify the financial and administrative burden on national authorities and operators. The Commission notes that the in-depth impact assessment that the Commission carried out in cooperation with Eurocontrol and other experts from the aviation sector {SWD(2013) 430}, addressed the feasibility of implementation and economic effects of the proposal. The result showed clearly that the new proposal would not have undue financial or administrative impacts.

Secondly, the Senato della Repubblica raises concerns regarding the transposition deadline of the proposed Directive. Indeed, according to Article 2 of the proposal, laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive shall be adopted and published within three months from its entry into force.

The Commission notes that the legal form of the proposed instrument has been changed to Regulation in the course of the negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission is not opposed to this change of legal form; it should be recalled, however, that Member States still need to amend their existing national legislation in order to be in line with the new rules. Given that aircraft operators need to carry out obligations related to the verification of aircraft emissions in January each year, it is crucial that the new national rules are adopted well in advance of January 2015.

Finally, as regards the concerns of the Senato della Repubblica relating to relations with third countries, the Commission would like to draw the attention of the Senato della Repubblica to the fact that a number of consultations on the proposal have been held with third countries, including China, United States and others. The Commission will continue these talks in the coming months to ensure the proper communication of the approach. However, as clearly indicated in the EU comments submitted to the ICAO secretariat after the 2013 Assembly, the EU rejects any interpretation of the Assembly resolution that would imply mutual consent.

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
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The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*