



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,  
C(2014) final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato de la Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on novel foods {COM(2013) 894 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senato de la Repubblica's support as regards the proposal's aim to streamline and simplify the regulatory process for novel foods while ensuring the safety of the food and maintaining the high level of protection of human health.*

*The Commission will be taking into consideration the comments of the Senato de la Repubblica on the amount of information to be provided by the applicant pursuant to Article 9 in the context of the further legislative procedure. The Commission further notes that detailed guidance will be elaborated in accordance with Article 12 on the contents, drafting and presentation of the applications. The Commission is also considering the comments on the stronger involvement of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Member States. In this context, the Commission would like to note that it will consult EFSA on all the applications which are liable to have an effect on human health. The Commission also agrees that all the applications should be made available to the Member States. These comments will be further examined in the framework of the inter-institutional procedure with the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission shares the Senato de la Repubblica's view that the European legislation on hygiene and food safety must be respected also when the novel food to be placed on the market originates from a third country. Finally, the Commission notes that the recognition of geographical indications for agricultural produce is outside of the scope of this proposal.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO  
President of the  
Senato della Repubblica  
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