



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 8.6.2015
C(2015) 3815 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the Communication "Tackling unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food supply chain" {COM(2014) 472 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's positive view on the voluntary Supply Chain Initiative and in particular shares its opinion that it would be beneficial if national platforms were developed in all Member States.

The Commission notes the position of the Senato della Repubblica that it is essential that the 'fear factor' is effectively addressed. The Commission recognised that this is a crucial element of tackling unfair trading practices in the food supply chain by suggesting that voluntary schemes should be complemented with appropriate public enforcement measures.

The Commission takes note of the Senato della Repubblica's view that it would be useful to lay down harmonised minimum requirements or principles of good practice at the EU level. As explained in its Communication, the Commission would like to see a common understanding across Member States as to the principles of good practice that should govern relationships in the food supply chain. If the Commission's forthcoming assessment on the basis of the Communication shows that breaches of such principles cannot be effectively addressed across all Member States, additional action at the European level, including possible EU legislation, may be envisaged.

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,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bienkowska
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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