



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 4, 12, 2017
C(2017) 8201 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion addressed to the Italian Government on the Union's trade strategy.

The Commission has taken due note of the views expressed in the Opinion, and would like to bring to the attention of the Senato della Repubblica its Communication "A Balanced and Progressive Trade Policy to Harness Globalisation" of 13 September 2017 {COM(2017) 492 final}, in which the Commission states that "national Parliaments indeed play a key role in monitoring their government's positioning towards EU trade negotiations. The Commission therefore encourages Member States to continue and, whenever possible, ensure the involvement of national Parliaments in trade talks at the earliest possible stage".

It is in this context that the Commission has also decided to publish its proposals for negotiating directives for upcoming trade negotiations, such as those for a free trade agreement with Australia and New Zealand, and transmitted them to the national Parliaments.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Cecilia Malmström
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the
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