



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 29.4.2016
C(2016) 2560 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency {COM(2015) 667 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures presented by the Commission on 15 December 2015 designed to address the refugee crisis by creating a European Border and Coast Guard system and promoting integrated border management.

This proposal reinforces and expands the tasks of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) by providing for close cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to support the national authorities carrying out coastguard functions. This close cooperation will translate into sharing, combining and analysing information; providing surveillance and communication services based on state of the art technology; developing capacities, guidelines, recommendations and best practices; and sharing resources and capacity.

The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's support for the proposal and is pleased that it shares the view that action at the EU level is required. The Commission notes the recommendation by the Senato della Repubblica that, once approved, the revised Regulation should be implemented quickly and that adequate resources should be made available. The Commission trusts that its proposal already goes a long way in meeting this recommendation given the proposal's scope and the additional resources proposed by the Commission.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council in which your government is represented.

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
IT – 00186 ROMA*

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*

*Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission*