



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 1.9.2016
C(2016) 5607 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its favourable opinion on its proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) for the period 2017 to 2020 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 1305/2013 {COM(2015) 701 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senato della Repubblica for the proposal and takes note of its remarks.

Indeed, article 13 of the Commission proposal requests both the Commission and the Member States to foster synergies and ensure effective coordination between the Programme and the other Union programmes and instruments, in particular the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds. This should help to avoid duplication of efforts and facilitate the delivery of coherent and streamlined support actions. The proposal provides for appropriate coordination of support measures. In addition, the Commission is establishing an internal coordination mechanism across its services to ensure that support measures under Union programmes and funds are complementary and do not overlap. Under the proposal, Member States should also optimise mechanisms for coordination. Finally, under the SRSP, there is no need to modify national operational programmes or partnership agreements, unless the beneficiary Member State contributes additional funds under art 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (ESI funds common provisions regulation) and according to the applicable rules.

In particular, article 13 (a) of the proposal requests both the Commission and Member States to ensure complementarity and synergy between different instruments at Union and national levels, especially in relation to measures financed by Union funds. Under the proposal, Member States and the Commission have a responsibility for ensuring, both in the planning phase and during implementation, effective coordination of the support measures carried out under the SRSP with the support activities provided under the Union programmes managed at the national level. This would clearly apply to any support intended to increase the administrative capacity of Member States in general or specifically for the management of ESI funds, as provided for under the technical assistance measures of Article 58 of

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Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (ESI funds common provisions regulation). Certainly, the coordination mechanism referred to above will have to take into account the activities taking place under the aegis of the ESI funds for the 2014-2020 programming period.

While the proposal for the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme is not directly linked to the Regulatory Fitness and simplification exercise or to the process of simplification of the Structural Funds rules, it is in line with – and contributes to – the Better Regulation agenda. Furthermore, reinforcing the administrative capacity in the Member States to carry out reforms of institutions and the administration, and in economic and social sectors, will result in more efficient, modern and simplified structures at the service of citizens and businesses, including those for the use of European Union Funds.

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

Yours sincerely,

Frans Timmermans

First Vice-President