



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.1.2017*

*C(2017)166 final*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO*

*President of the Senato della Repubblica*

*Piazza Madama, 1*

*IT – 00186 ROME*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the following three Communications: 'Joint Framework on Countering Hybrid Threats - a European Union Response' {JOIN(2016) 18 final}, 'Delivering on the European Agenda on Security to Fight against Terrorism and Pave the Way towards an Effective and Genuine Security Union' {COM(2016) 230 final}, and 'Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security' {COM(2016) 205 final}.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Senato della Repubblica has adopted a favourable opinion on the above-mentioned Communications, and notes the encouraging comments made in the Opinion with regard to the role of the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) and the need to adopt a European approach for developing a cybersecurity strategy.*

*As President Juncker reaffirmed in his State of the Union address to the European Parliament, ensuring the security of Europe's citizens has been a priority for this Commission since its first day in office. That is why the Commission has reinforced the implementation of the Security Agenda<sup>1</sup>, in particular in paving the way for an effective and genuine Security Union<sup>2</sup> and in focusing on better operational use of all existing instruments.*

*The Commission shares the views of the Senato della Repubblica regarding the need to step up the efforts against terrorism financing. Following the adoption in February this year of the Action Plan against Terrorism Financing<sup>3</sup>, the Commission tabled a proposal in July to reinforce the Anti-Money Laundering Directive<sup>4</sup>. On 21 December, the Commission has adopted proposals for a Directive on countering money laundering by criminal law<sup>5</sup> and for*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2015) 185 final of 28 April 2015.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2016) 230 final of 20 April 2016.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2016) 50 final of 2 February 2016.

<sup>4</sup> COM(2016) 450 final of 5 July 2016.

<sup>5</sup> COM(2016) 826 final of 21 December 2016.

*a Regulation to bring the Cash Control Regulation into line with international norms and best practices in the fight against money laundering and the fight against terrorism<sup>6</sup>.*

*The Commission notes that the Senato della Repubblica has also stressed in its Opinion the importance of the immediate removal of online materials containing terrorist propaganda. Addressing radicalisation, including online, is a key element of the Commission's policy towards a greater level of security within the European Union. Preventing terrorism and violent radicalisation is one of the three priorities of the European Agenda on Security, paving a way towards an effective and genuine Security Union.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future with the Senato della Repubblica.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>6</sup> COM(2016) 825 final of 21 December 2016.