



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 3.11.2016  
C(2016) 6999 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2009/45/EC on safety rules and standards for passenger ships {COM(2016) 369 final}.*

*Driven by the Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) Programme, this proposal forms part of a broader package of measures designed to simplify, streamline and improve the common rules on the safety of ships carrying passengers in EU waters. Clarifying the applicability of technical safety standards preserves the common level of safety for passenger ships operating on domestic voyages within EU waters and ensures that competition takes place on an equal footing.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's overall support for the proposal and shares the view that action at the EU level is necessary and brings added value as compared to action by the Member States alone.*

*The Commission also takes seriously the concerns expressed by the Senato della Repubblica as regards bringing aluminium built ships currently certified in accordance with national legislation within the scope of the Directive. The Commission supports the view that an adjustment period is needed and the proposal therefore includes provisions in this regard. This issue has been raised and discussed in the Council Shipping Working Party.*

*The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached soon and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO  
President of the Senato della Repubblica  
Piazza Madama, 1  
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