



*Brussels, 18.10.2016  
C(2016) 6658 final*

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

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive amending Council Directive 98/41/EC on the registration of persons sailing on board passenger ships operating to or from ports of the Member States of the Community and amending Directive 2010/65/EU on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the Member States {COM(2016) 370 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. Introducing the requirement to register passenger data in a digital manner brings the existing requirements up to date with technological developments, making them more efficient and less burdensome. Under this proposal, Member States would also be dispensed from having to approve the company passenger registration systems; although they will remain responsible for ensuring that the information is collected and recorded electronically in an accurate and timely manner.*

*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 notes the Senato della Repubblica's suggestions to improve the use of electronic communication means as well as its concern about the use of personal data for the purpose of preventing acts of sabotage and piracy.*

*The Commission would like to clarify that under this proposal, in accordance with existing European data protection law, the personal data collected and processed for the purposes of passenger safety under Council Directive 98/41/EC<sup>1</sup> should not be used for any other purpose.*

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 188, 2.7.1998, pp. 35-39.

*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.*

*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*