



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 3.11.2016  
C(2016) 6908 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on a system of inspections for the safe operation of ro-ro ferry and high-speed passenger craft in regular service and amending Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control and repealing Council Directive 1999/35/EC {COM(2016) 371 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 and improve the common rules on the safety of ships carrying passengers in EU waters. Eliminating overlaps between various inspection regimes reduces the administrative burden on shipowners and the inspection efforts of Member States' authorities. Making the rules clearer, simpler and up to date with legal developments not only preserves safety levels but also enhances them.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's broad support for the proposal and shares the view that action at EU level is required to pursue the above-mentioned objectives.*

*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 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  
IT – 00186 ROMA*