



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.10.2016
C(2016) 6600 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the Commission's proposal for a Decision amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 {COM(2016) 400 final}.

The extension of this prestigious and high-profile EU initiative to European Free Trade Association countries which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, provided that they participate in the Creative Europe Programme or in the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture, is key to reinforcing the cultural links between the European Union and these countries.

The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's overall support for the proposal which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council, in which the Italian government is represented.

The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*

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