



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 13.01.2017  
C(2017) 54 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Year of Cultural Heritage {COM(2016) 543 final}.*

*In proposing this initiative, the Commission intends to raise awareness of the social and economic importance of cultural heritage as well as its contribution to economic growth and social cohesion. The Year will also offer opportunities to promote European excellence in the sector and for European citizens to better understand the present through a richer and shared interpretation of the past.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's full support for the initiative and is pleased to have this opportunity to confirm that synergies between the European Year of Cultural Heritage and the Union action of the European Capitals of Culture will be fully explored in 2018.*

*Discussions between the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.*

*The Opinion of the Senato della Repubblica will be fully taken into account in future EU policy developments on cultural heritage. The Commission looks forward to continued collaboration with the Senato della Repubblica and national and regional stakeholders across Europe, to promote our cultural heritage as a catalyst for creativity and a pivotal component of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro Grasso  
President of the Senato della Repubblica  
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