



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 20.01.2017
C(2017) 61 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 on the European Statistical Programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2018-2020 {COM(2015) 557 final}.

The purpose of the proposal is to extend the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017 to include the period 2018-2020. It will ensure and provide the financial assistance which the European Statistical System needs to be able to provide high-quality statistical information and close the statistical gaps that need to be addressed most urgently. The extended European Statistical Programme will focus on a number of priority areas that reflect the Commission's ten political priorities and contribute to building the permanent capacity needed to respond more quickly to emerging needs and to adapt the statistical infrastructure so as to harness the potential of new data sources.

The Commission agrees that the production of European statistics must conform to high quality standards and not increase excessive burden on statistical respondents.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro Grasso
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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