



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 03.03.2017
C(2017) 1451 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 (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 establishing Guarantee Fund for external actions {COM(2016) 582 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader, ambitious package of measures known as the External Investment Plan designed to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and, in so doing, to address some of the root causes of irregular migration and contribute to the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants to their countries of origin.

Together with a separate proposal to amend the current External Lending Mandate decision {COM(2016) 583 final}, this proposal would enable the European Investment Bank to rapidly contribute to the objectives of the External Investment Plan through a qualitative and quantitative expansion of its External Lending Mandate.

The Commission is pleased that the Senato della Repubblica shares the view that action at the EU level as envisaged in the proposal is required to achieve these objectives and that Europe needs a coordinated, structural response to migration-related issues as set out in the communication on a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration {COM(2016) 385 final}.

Discussions between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission concerning the proposal are now underway, and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future. The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Pierre Moscovici
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro Grasso
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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