



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 8.6.2017
C(2017) 3913 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 the Participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States {COM(2016) 662 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's support for strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation through research and innovation.

The Commission acknowledges the potential to integrate national research and innovation policies and programmes in order to develop innovative solutions addressing some of the key challenges that the Mediterranean area is facing. The proposal would bring together participants from both sides of the Mediterranean on the basis of co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefit.

The proposal is expected to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council before the summer. The initiative is set to start at the beginning of 2018.

The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Carlos Moedas
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro Grasso
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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