



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.1.2017  
C(2017) 240 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the Joint Communication from the European Commission and the High Representative "Elements for an EU-wide strategic framework to support security sector reform (SSR)" {JOIN(2016) 31 final} and for the strong support to its implementation.*

*In adopting this Joint Communication the Commission is keeping its promise contained in the 2016 Work Programme to further enhance the effectiveness and impact of our support to partner countries in improving security sector governance and capacity building. Enhancing and enabling our partners' capacities to deliver security for the individuals and for the state based on human rights, the rule of law, democratic principles and good governance principles is a priority for the Commission. With this Joint Communication the EU promotes an integrated approach also in line with the new UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and in particular with Sustainable Development Goal 16 which calls for building capacities at all levels for preventing violence and combatting terrorism and crime.*

*With regard to the Senato della Repubblica's observations concerning the need for increased focus on the Mediterranean countries and neighbouring areas, the Commission recalls that the strategic framework is globally applicable, including in the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood that the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy has identified as a strategic priority.*

*The contribution of Member States is essential for the practical and effective implementation of this new strategic framework. The Commission therefore welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's encouragement for an active role to be played by the Government of Italy and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Federica Mogherini  
High Representative/Vice-President*

*Mr Pietro Grasso  
President of the Senato della Repubblica  
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