



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 2.6.2017
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on 'International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans' {JOIN(2016) 49 final}.

The objective of this initiative is to secure an effective and coherent contribution of the European Union and its Member States to increasing global efforts towards healthy, clean, secure, safe and sustainably managed oceans. This is essential to allow the use of ocean resources, and Europe's very competitive maritime economy, to continue to yield economic benefits in terms of jobs and growth whilst conserving and restoring the world's oceans. This requires action at global, regional and bilateral levels. In this regard, Italy is a crucial partner with its strategic role in the Mediterranean and its commitment towards sustainable development, as well as its engagement to address challenges such as maritime security and safety.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro Grasso
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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