



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.9.2017  
C(2017) 6125 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on "A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific" {JOIN(2016) 52 final}.*

*The Communication presents building blocks for a future partnership, with the view of forging first and foremost a political partnership with the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries, focusing on common interests and going beyond the donor-recipient relationship. The Communication proposes that the future partnership be firmly based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as on the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy and the newly adopted European Consensus on Development.*

*In a rapidly changing world, the challenge of achieving sustainable development requires concerted action at global, regional, and bilateral levels.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Senato della Repubblica shares the view that the partnership and its acquis are still relevant, and that the institutional setup of the future agreement will have to allow for greater appreciation of regional differences in the relationship with the partners. The Commission also takes note of the Senato della Repubblica's opinion in favour of the inclusion of "horizontal" themes, such as gender equality and youth, access to education, and cultural cooperation, among the priorities of the partnership. The Commission appreciates the importance given to topics linked to migration management and it concurs with the Senato della Repubblica on the need to integrate more effectively the partnership within the European Union's external action.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Neven Mimica  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO  
President of the Senato della Repubblica  
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