



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.1.2018
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*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the
Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
IT – 00186 ROME*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the Commission's report on the implementation and relevance of the European Union Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017 {COM(2017) 22 final}.

The Commission is pleased to note that the Senato della Repubblica welcomes the report. Many of the points raised in the report were taken up by Member States when preparing the following European Union work plan for sport in the first half of the year. The new work plan for sport 2017-2020 was adopted by the Council of Ministers in May 2017¹.

This new work plan for sport reflects many of the suggestions in the Senato della Repubblica's opinion. First, the new work plan will run from 2017 until the end of 2020, thereby aligning itself to the current Multiannual Financial Framework. Second, it will continue to focus on key areas of European Union sport policy, namely integrity, the economic dimension of sport, and sport and society. Within the last key topic, themes such as social inclusion, the role of coaches, education in and through sport, sport and health, sport and environment and sport and media, as well as sport diplomacy will be tackled. Furthermore, the new work plan will seek to link its priorities with other European Union policy priorities; it recognises the need to cooperate closely with the sport movement and relevant competent organisations at national, European and international levels; it will tap into the advantages of the Erasmus+ programme; and it promotes participation in sport and physical activity, especially through the annual European Week of Sport. Finally, the 2017-2020 work plan will also incorporate new working mechanisms which will allow more flexibility in the way the work plan is executed. For example, this has enabled specific subjects which are of particular interest to Member States, such as the specificity of sport, to be explicitly highlighted in the work plan.

¹ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9639-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

It will now be to the Member States to make sure that the new work plan is successfully implemented.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*