



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.7.2017
C(2017) 5401 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC to continue current limitations of scope for aviation activities and to prepare to implement a global market-based measure from 2021 {COM(2017) 54 final}.

The proposal aims at extending the application of the European Emissions Trading System to aviation emissions from flights within the European Economic Area until there is more clarity on the implementation of the global market-based measure agreed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation in October 2016. The proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to address greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the climate objectives agreed by the Union for 2020 and 2030, and in line with the Commission's promise in its 2015 Work Programme to develop a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy.

Considering the sharp increase in air traffic, aviation CO₂ emissions are steadily growing. The proposal suggests continuing the tackling of emissions from flights between airports located in the European Economic Area through the European Emissions Trading System, as this is presently the case under the current legislation. It also provides for a new review in the coming years to address the implementation of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) agreed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation through the legislation on the European Emissions Trading System, and in a way that would be consistent with the European Union's 2030 climate objective of reducing emissions domestically by at least 40 % compared to 1990 levels. That review will take into account the developments in the International Civil Aviation Organisation to operationalize CORSIA as well as measures adopted by other States to implement the global scheme, together with the need to achieve an aviation contribution within the European Union consistent with the overall EU objective.

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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The Commission takes the Senato della Repubblica's concerns very seriously, and is pleased to have this opportunity to provide a number of clarifications regarding the proposal. In that regard, the Commission would like to underline that the proposal does not mean that aviation emissions would no longer be regulated: emissions from all flights within the European Economic Area would continue to be subject to the European Emissions Trading System. On the other hand it is important to clarify that the agreement reached by the International Civil Aviation Organisation on CORSIA is not an agreement between private entities, but a Resolution agreed among States in a specialized agency of the United Nations.

The Commission will take the views expressed by the Senato della Repubblica into account in the context of the legislative process. Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached this year.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Julian King
Member of the Commission*