



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.9.2017
C(2017) 6067 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council fixing the adjustment rate provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 for direct payments in respect of the calendar year 2017 {COM(2017) 150 final}.

The Commission takes note of the positive opinion of the Senato della Repubblica concerning the proposal's compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The Senato della Repubblica observes that, when negotiating a possible use of the reserve for agricultural crises and on the identification of the sectors that could benefit from such a financing, Italian sectors severely affected by damaging natural phenomena, especially the livestock sector (livestock breeding), wine, olive and fruit and vegetable sectors, should be considered.

The creation of the crisis reserve intends to provide additional support in case of major crises affecting the agricultural production or distribution and if support cannot be financed from existing budgetary availabilities. If this proves to be the case, the Commission may present a proposal for the use of the crisis reserve to the European Parliament and to the Council.

Until now, the financing of the aid provided to the sectors affected by recent crises has been based on available appropriations and hence it was not necessary to call on the crisis reserve.

The Commission hopes that this clarification addresses the issue raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Phil Hogan
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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