



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 29.11.2017
C(2017) 7930 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the Commission's report on the ex-post independent evaluation of the European Capitals of Culture 2015 (Mons and Pilsen) {COM(2017) 193 final}.

The Commission is pleased to note that the Senato della Repubblica welcomes this report and that it shares the Commission's strong belief that assessing the impact of the European Capitals of Culture is important to showcase how investment in culture can lead to the sustainable development of cities and their surrounding areas.

The Commission agrees with the Senato della Repubblica that title-holding cities should be encouraged to carry out exhaustive evaluations covering a period starting well ahead of and ending well after their title year so as to establish baseline positions and measure the long-term impact of the event. This is precisely the reason why the Commission has produced "Guidelines for the cities' own evaluations of the results of their European Capital of Culture-year", which are addressed to all title-holders.

Regarding Matera, which will hold the title of European Capital of Culture in 2019, the Commission would like to seize this opportunity to note that the Commission has been following the progress of the city's preparation since it was assigned the title in May 2015. In this framework, the Commission will have a last monitoring meeting with representatives of "Matera 2019" and a panel of independent experts in Brussels next spring.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the
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