



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 20.10.2017
C(2017) 6765 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 laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps {COM(2017) 262 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica' positive assessment of the proposal.

The proposal delivers on the commitment made by President Juncker during his 2016 State of the Union address to create a European Solidarity Corps, offering young people between the age of 18 and 30 the opportunity to take part in a wide range of solidarity activities across the European Union.

With the European Solidarity Corps the Commission is seeking to establish an inclusive framework for solidarity activities in Europe underpinning the values upon which Europe is founded. The European Solidarity Corps will enable young people across Europe to engage with communities and address societal challenges. At the same time it will help improve the skills and competences young people need for their personal and professional development at the beginning of their careers.

The European Solidarity Corps is meeting with vivid interest from young people, with more than 36,000 young people already having signed up for it.

In its Opinion, the Senato della Repubblica calls for the European Solidarity Corps to provide specific support to those countries most exposed to emergency situations. In this context, the Commission would like to note that in August 2017 the first group of European Solidarity Corps volunteers arrived in the Italian town of Norcia to help with the ongoing efforts to repair damage and rebuild social services for the local community affected by the

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

severe earthquakes that hit the region between August 2016 and January 2017. In total, 230 European Solidarity Corps members will support Italian communities hit by the earthquakes until 2020. The European Solidarity Corps will continue to support projects of such kind.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*