



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.10.2017
C(2017) 6749 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 on safeguarding competition in air transport, repealing Regulation (EC) No 868/2004 {COM(2017) 289 final}.

This proposal forms part of a package of several measures adopted by the Commission and designed to further support open and connected aviation markets in the European Union and beyond. These initiatives aim to safeguard competition and connectivity in aviation and reinforce the competitiveness of European aviation, which is a strong driver of job creation, economic growth and trade.

The Commission is pleased that the Senato della Repubblica shares the view that action at the European Union level as envisaged in the proposal respects the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The Commission also welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's reference to relevant ongoing work at the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The Commission closely cooperates with the International Civil Aviation Organisation and supports international efforts towards ensuring fair and open market competition in air transport at global level.

Discussions between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council concerning this proposal are underway and the Commission looks forward to an agreement being reached by the co-legislators in the near future.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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