



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 18.1.2019
C(2019) 158 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 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument {COM(2018) 460 final}.

The Commission welcomes the favourable opinion of the Senato della Repubblica on the proposed Regulation and would like to underline that it will report annually on progress towards the achievement of its objectives and provide a breakdown on the destination of Union funds by country and region, including for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries as well as Overseas Countries and Territories.

The Commission notes the Senato della Repubblica's concerns on the funding split between geographic and thematic allocations under the proposed instrument. In this context it should be highlighted that a decrease in thematic funding does not mean the Union would do less on those issues, rather that they would be funded through a geographic approach instead. Currently, a number of thematic activities can already be financed through geographic funds. By consolidating the bulk of the Union's actions in support of a given country/region under one geographic programme, more coherence and impact can be ensured. The thematic funds should instead be reserved for activities that cannot be funded at country or regional level or address sensitive issues without the consent of partner governments such as certain human rights activities.

As regards Article 9 of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument on capacity building of military actors in support of development and security for development, the Commission notes the Senato della Repubblica's concerns on the wording. The Commission would recall that the current text is in line with the amended Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, which is currently in force.

*Ms Maria Elisabetta ALBERTI CASELLATI
President of the
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The Commission hopes that these comments address the concerns raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Neven Mimica
Member of the Commission*